Solo Leveling
12
DUBU
(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Story by
CHUGONG
Adapted by
h-goon

Solo Leveling
12
DUBU
(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Story by
CHUGONG
Adapted by
h-goon

CHARACTERS

Jinwoo Sung

S-rank Hunter,
Ahjin Guild

Ilhwan Sung

Jinwoo Sung's Father,
Suspect S

Jinchul Woo

President of the Hunter's
Association

Ashborn

Shadow Monarch

Bellion

Commander of the
Shadow Army

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 34
The Death of the Player
5

CHAPTER 35
At the Edge of Death
71

CHAPTER 36
The Truth
223

Solo Leveling

CHAPTER 34

The Death of the Player

Solo Leveling

RUMBLE
...YOU BASTARD!!

MAY I JOIN TOO?
CRACK
KRIK
CRACK

LEAP

SHE'S CONTROLLING CORPSES...!
SLASH

STOMP
SHU
NK

TMP
TMP
SHWP
SHATTER

THUD
!
WHOOSH

BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT USELESS PIECE OF METAL CAN SO MUCH AS SCRATCH ME?
SHUNK
WHAT?!
MAYBE IF THIS WAS A PIECE OF ORDINARY METAL!

WHAM
FSHH
WHEW...

KRIK

CRACK

MY LIEGE!
HOW DARE A LOWLY INSECT WOMAN LAY A FINGER ON MY KING?
HOW DARE YOU?!
MY LORD!
SKRAAH!

A MERE SHADOW SOLDIER BROKE FREE OF MY BINDING SPELL?
I CAN'T BELIEVE A HUMAN GAVE RISE TO A MARSHAL!
EACH MARSHAL IS AN INCARNATION OF DESTRUCTION.

THIS IMPERTINENT CHILD DOESN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE WHO HIS MOTHER IS. HE MUST BE PUNISHED!
WHOOSH

SHHK
SKRAAAAAH! YOU WRETCHED HAG!!
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?!
MY KING IS AS PHENOMENAL AS I BELIEVED...
THIS HUMBLE SERVANT IS ONCE AGAIN IN AWE!
LEAP

SLASH
SLICE
WHOOSH

KA-BOOOM
CRUMBLE

BAM BAM
BAM
BAM
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
KA-
CLANG

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN WITHSTAND OUR ATTACKS?
CRASH
SHUNK
LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE GOING TO DIE TODAY.
A MISERABLE HUMAN DARES TO HARM ME, A MONARCH?!

I PIERCED THAT BASTARD'S HEART.
IS THAT NOT A FATAL WOUND FOR THEM?
FW
SH
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG

VMM
SLIDE

SLASH
MY KING!!!

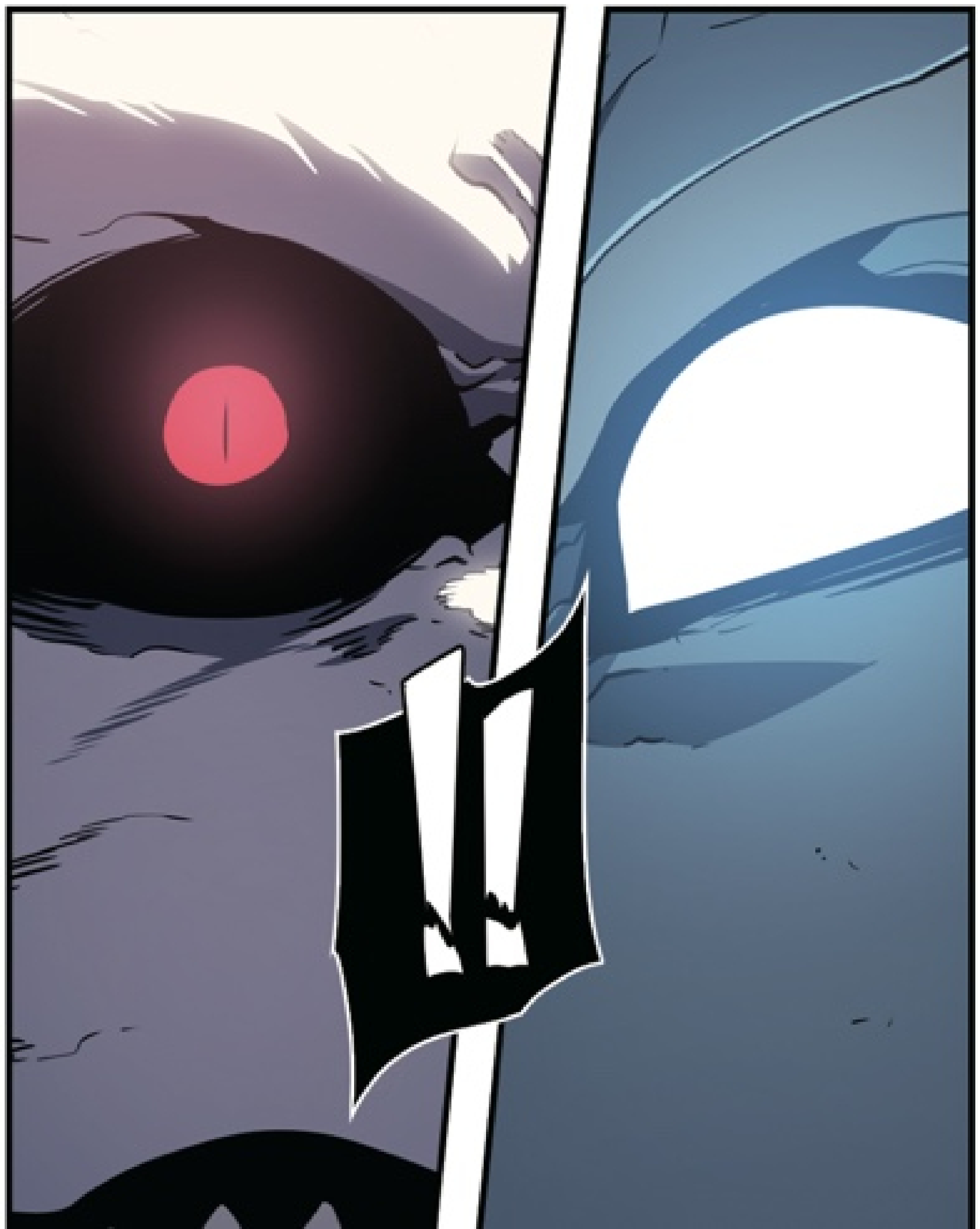
I AM QUERESHA THE PLAGUE MONARCH.
I AM THE MASTER OF ALL BUGS IN THE WORLD OF CHAOS.

THOUGH YOU FAIL TO RECOGNIZE YOUR MASTER, I SHALL STILL EMBRACE YOU.
SKITTER
SKRAAAH! LET GO!
SKITTER
THIS IS THE END.
YOU STUPID LACKEYS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HURRY AND HELP OUR KING!
I WILL...
KRIK

KRAK
...FINISH ALL OF THEM!
SEEMS THOSE SOLDIERS WERE QUITE STRONG WHEN THEY WERE ALIVE.
THE HIGH-LEVEL SOLDIERS ARE BREAKING OUT OF THE ICE.
CRASH
SHATTER

YOUR WOUND MUST BE DEEP.
PLAYTIME IS OVER.

YOU MEAN THIS?


!!

FWOOM
FULL RECOVERY.

NEW YORK
LONDON
SHANGHAI
PARIS

<It looks like Hunter Sung is in the middle of a storm.>
<What... What's going on?>
<It's like... I'm watching the end of the world.>
IS THAT REALLY THE JINWOO SUNG I KNOW?
I'M AWARE HE'S A HUNTER WHO GETS STRONGER, BUT...
...JUST HOW MUCH DID HE LEVEL UP IN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME?

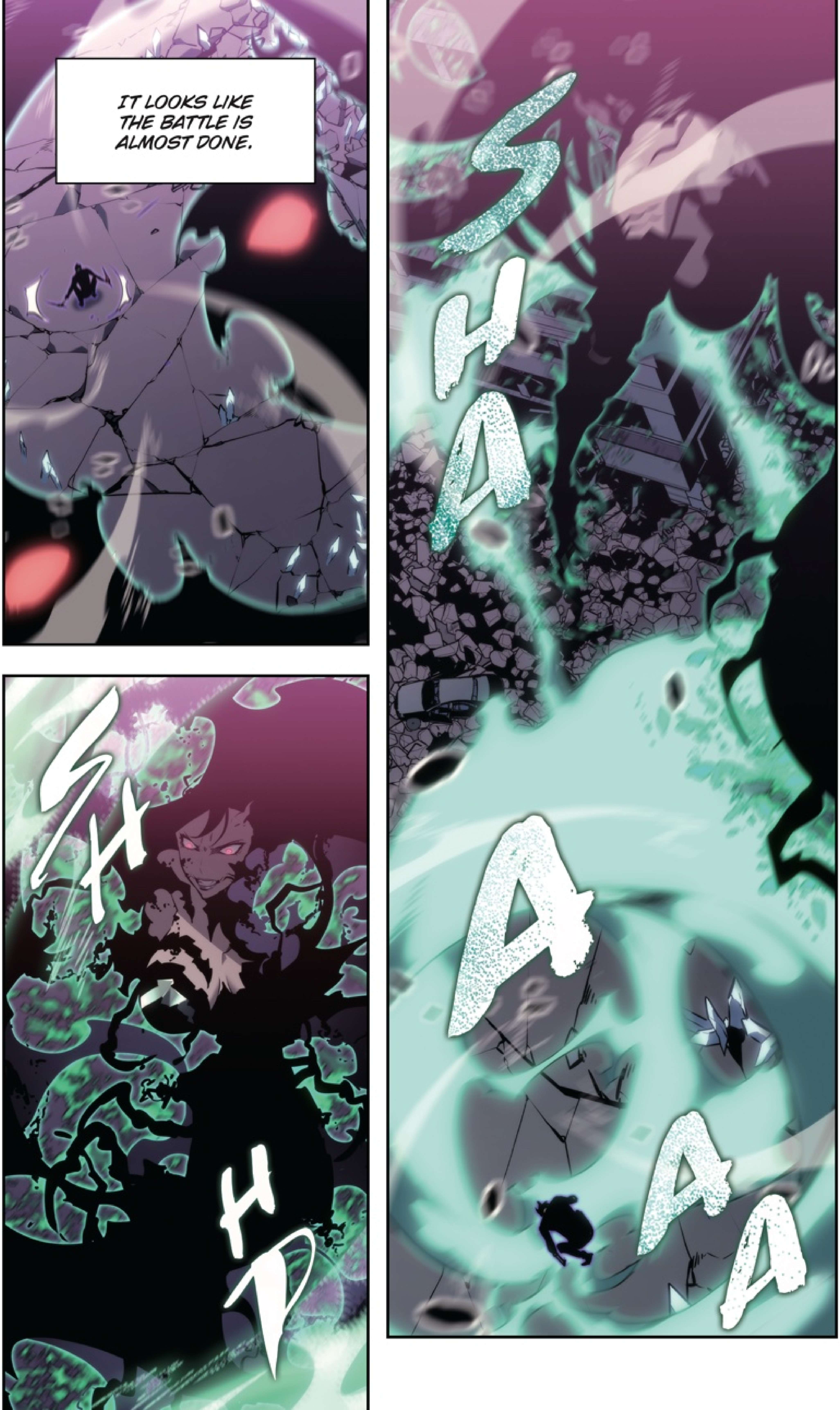
FLASH
FSHH
YOU BRAT!!

THE SO-CALLED "ARCHITECT" TOLD ME A PROPHECY.
HE SAID I'D BE KILLED BY A PILLAR OF FLAME HOLDING UP THE WORLD.
BUT WHETHER THAT PILLAR WOULD FALL OR NOT...
...IS SOMETHING HE LEFT OUT.
GYAAAAH!!

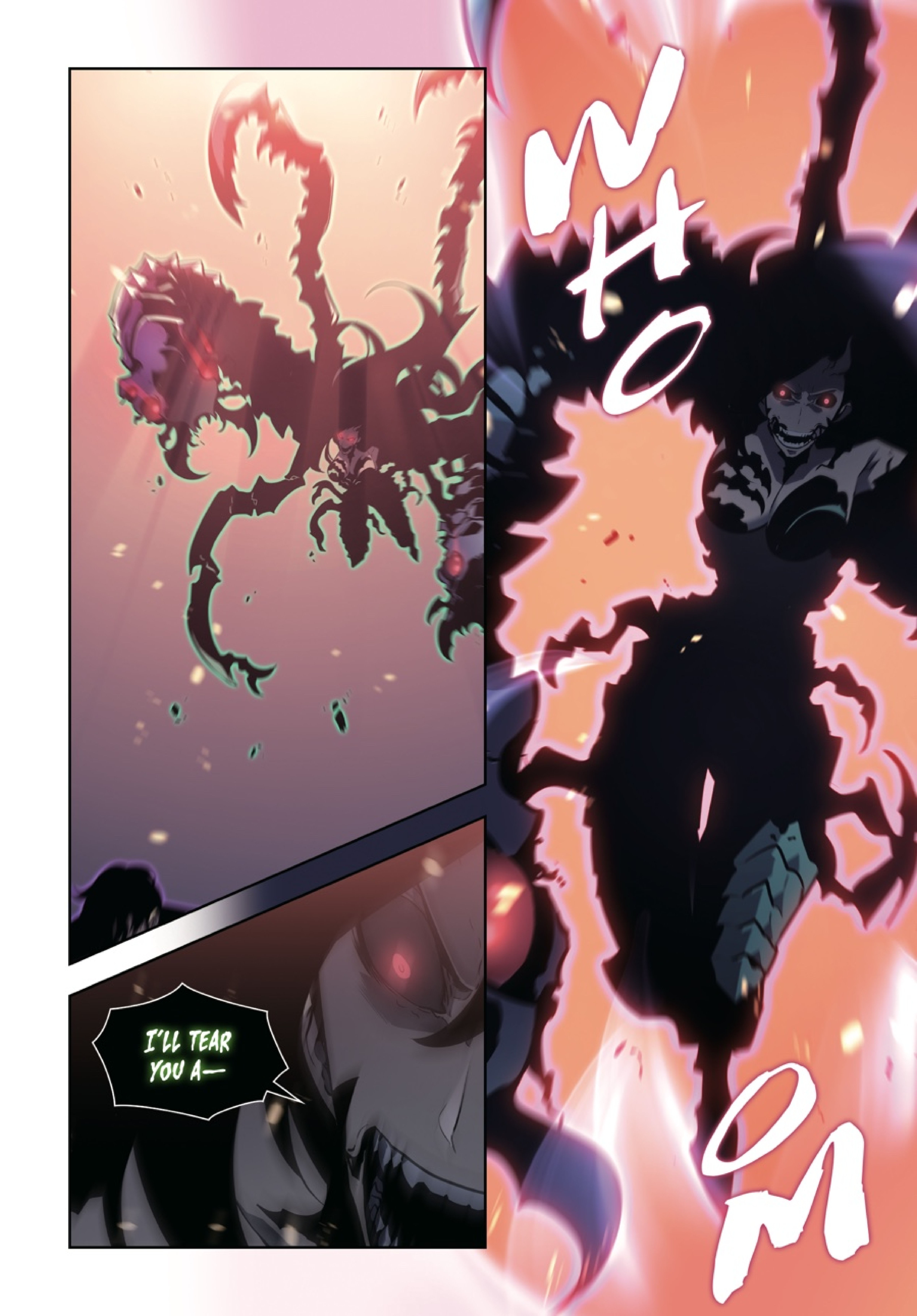
I'VE BEEN WAITING TO TARGET THE ENEMY FROM HERE, BUT...
...IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME IN THAT BATTLE.
FOR THE LAST THIRTY MINUTES, THE ELITE ASSASSIN UNIT OF REAPER GUILD HAVE BEEN STANDING BY AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS.
THEY'RE AWAITING THE SIGNAL TO USE RANGED ATTACKS LIKE HEAVY RAIN.
THE DAMAGE TO THE ENEMY MIGHT BE FATAL.

IF THAT HAPPENS... HOW MANY OF US...
...ARE GOING TO MAKE IT OUT OF HERE?
IF OUR ATTACKS FAIL, WE'LL DIE.
EVEN IF THEY SUCCEED, WE'LL STILL DIE.
EVEN THOMAS ANDRE COULDN'T STOP THAT MONSTER...
WE NEED TO MAKE A DECISION—
GRAB
JUST WATCH.

WH-WHO ARE YOU?
WHIRL
!!
HUNTERS HAVE ASSEMBLED TO TAKE DOWN MAGIC BEASTS AND HELP EVACUATE CIVILIANS.
BUT NONE OF THEM HAVE BEEN ABLE TO JOIN THE FIGHT.
THEY'RE JUST WAITING FOR THE WHOLE THING TO BE OVER.


IT LOOKS LIKE THE BATTLE IS ALMOST DONE.
SHAAAA
SHHP

The remnants of [Skill: Deadly Poison] have been detected in the air.
SPLASH
POISON?
POISON DOESN'T WORK ON ME.
[Buff: Detoxing] has been activated.
3, 2, 1...... Detoxing is complete.
YOU IMPUDENT BASTARD!!

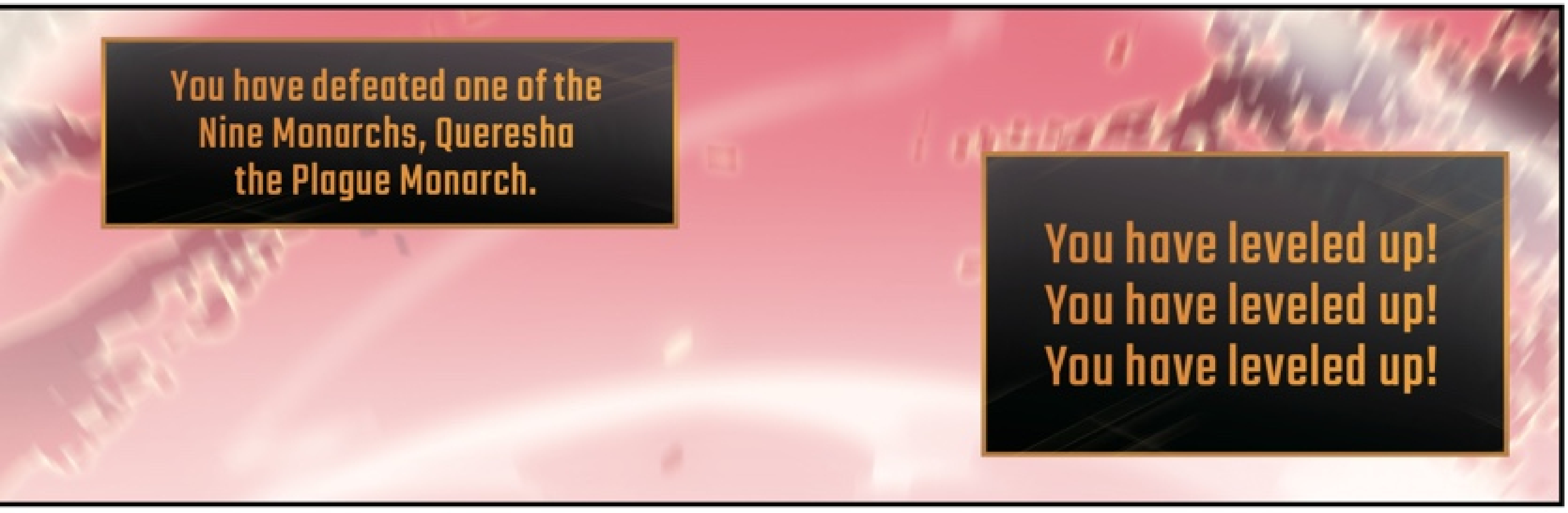

WHOOM
I'LL TEAR YOU A—

TOO POWERFUL...!
GRIT
GRIT
CAN'T BREAK FREE FROM IT...!!
[Skill: Mutilation] has been activated.

THIS IS DEATH...

A DEEP DARKNESS THAT EVEN WE, WHO WERE CREATED IN THE DARK, LONG FOR—

A BRILLIANT DARKNESS.


You have defeated one of the Nine Monarchs, Queresha the Plague Monarch.
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!
You have leveled up!

HOW...? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE...? HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO USE THE FULL POWER OF THE SHADOW MONARCH YET.
ARE WE GOING TO SEE...
...THE FRIGHTFUL POWER OF THE KING WHO RULED THE WORLD OF CHAOS?
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF? THE HUMAN IS EXHAUSTED.
HE'S RELYING ON THESE PITIFUL SOLDIERS. THAT IS THE PROOF THAT HE'S IMPERFECT.
AN IMPERFECT MONARCH CANNOT STOP A TRUE MONARCH'S ADVANCE.

SKRAAH!
BERU'S VERY EXISTENCE IS FADING!
IS THIS HOW THEY GOT RID OF THE SOLDIER ATTACHED TO THOMAS?
RETREAT! BERU, COME BACK!
You cannot call back the designated target.
You cannot call back the designated target.

ZOOM
THROW
FSHH
BERU'S EXTINCTION WAS AVOIDED.
BUT...
KING OF BEASTS, YOU ARE RIGHT.
KRIIIK

KRSHHH
YOU OVERESTIMATE YOUR MAGIC POWER, HUMAN.

IF YOU USE YOUR MANA ON CONTROLLING THESE PUPPETS, ALL I NEED TO DO IS CUT THE STRINGS.
I WILL IMPRISON YOUR SOLDIERS WITH MY POWER...
...MAKING THEM RECOVER AND REGENERATE AGAIN AND AGAIN.

THAT WILL DRAIN YOU OF YOUR MANA.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW...
SWISH

RUMBLE
...HUMAN?
ARGH!
WHOOSH

HE'S GONE?!
SLAM

STAB
POW

WHOOM
SKIIID
HUFF...
HUFF...
HE'S FAST.
MAINTAINING A SPIRIT FORM TAKES TOO MUCH MANA.

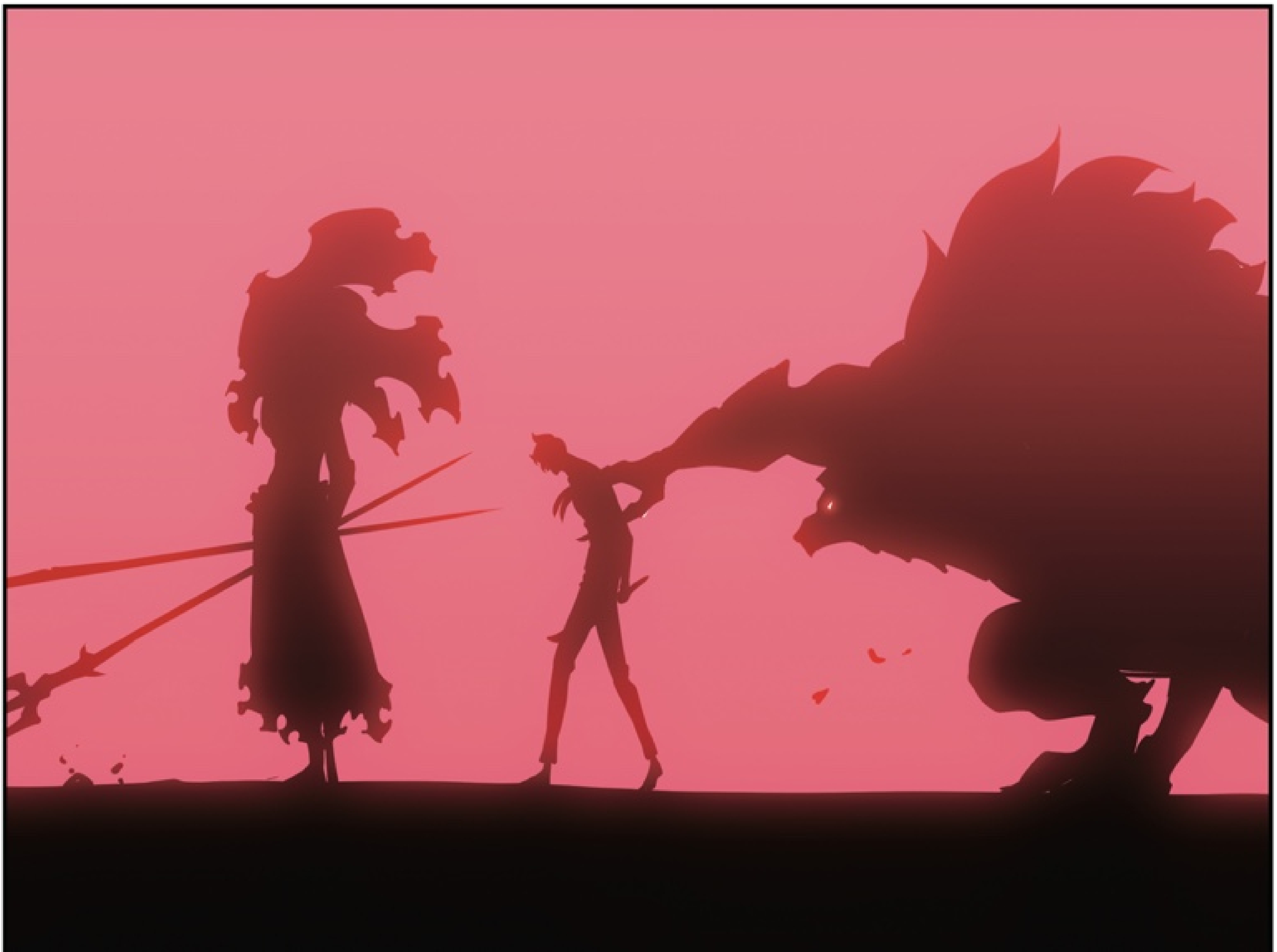
I'LL END THIS QUICKLY.

WHOOSH

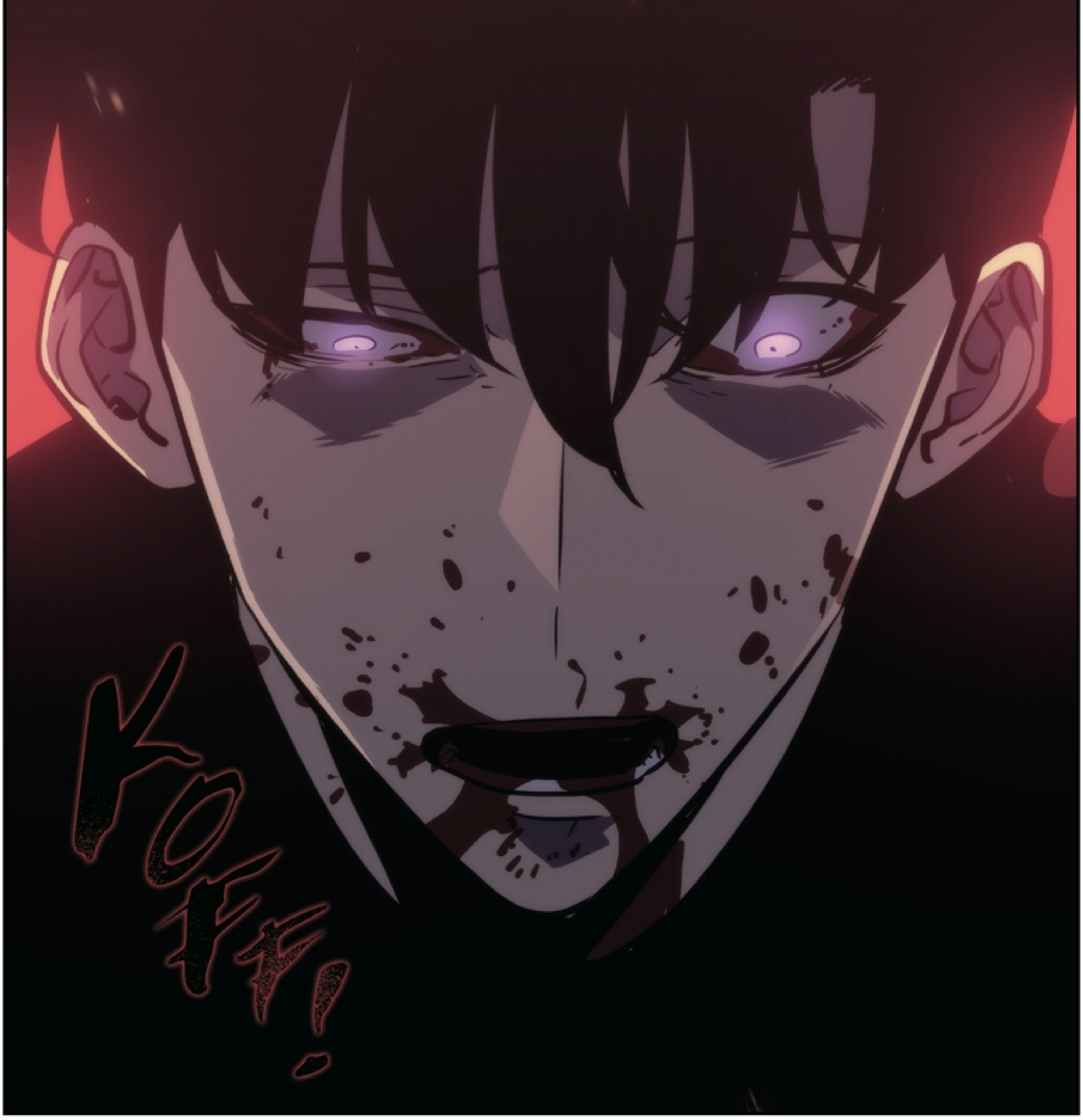
KLANG
KLANG
KA-CLANG
KLANG
HIS ACTIONS, LINE OF SIGHT, BREATHING, MUSCLES, THE MOVEMENT OF MAGIC POWER…
I CAN SEE IT ALL!
A LITTLE MORE…
I NEED TO BE FASTER THAN HIM!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, BUT...
...IT WON'T WORK!
SHWP
KA-BOOOM

GOT YO—
SMIRK



PLIP
SPLATTER
GUESS YOU'RE NOTHING WITHOUT YOUR PRECIOUS SPEED.
SPLURT



STATUS

NAME: Jinwoo Sung LEVEL: 146
JOB: Shadow Monarch
TITLE: Demon Hunter (and 2 others)

HP: 93,300 MP: 155,270
FATIGUE: 0

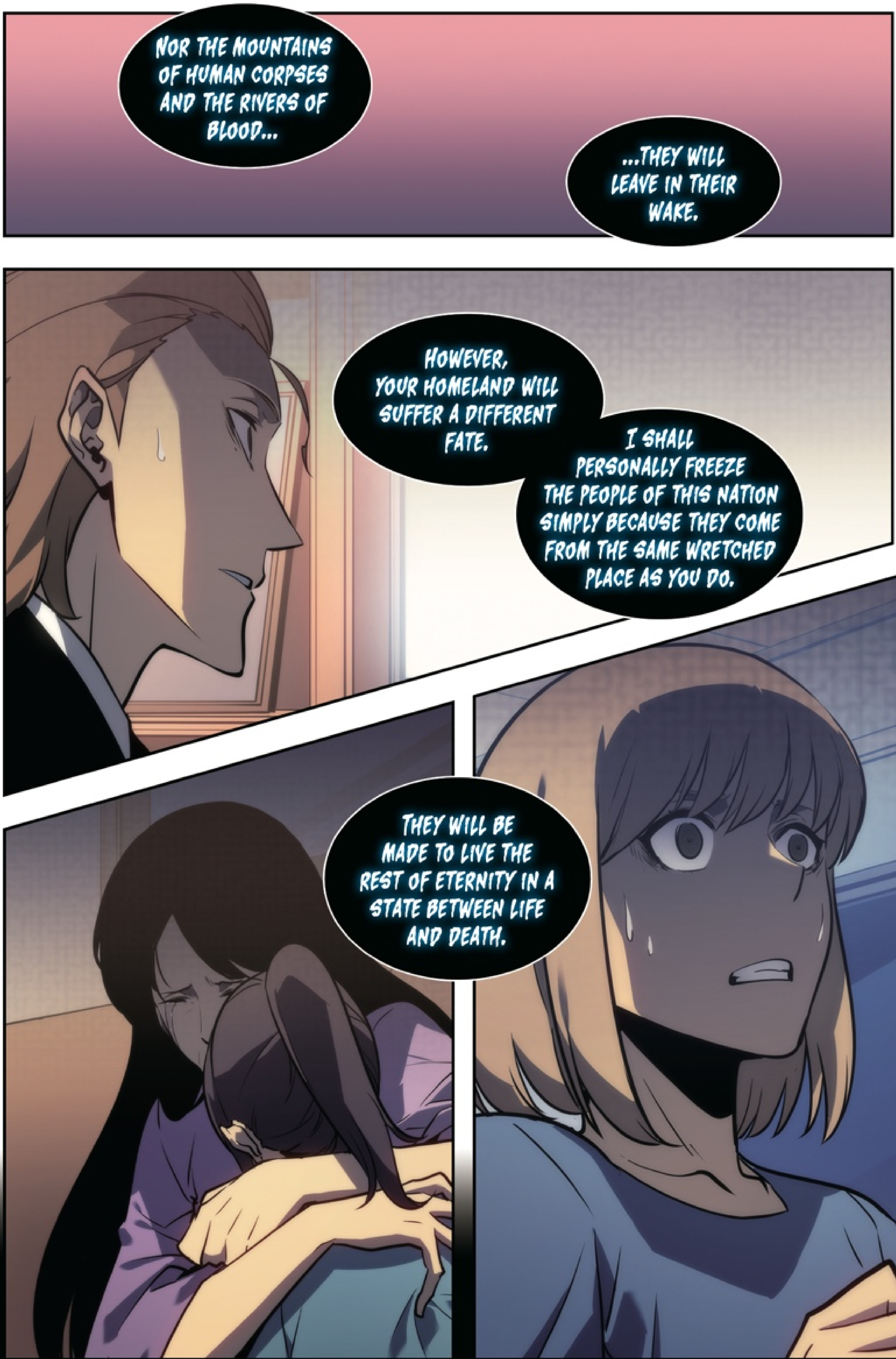
STRENGTH: 324 STAMINA: 320
AGILITY: 340 INTELLECT: 340
PERCEPTION: 321 AP: 0

Physical Damage Decrease: 65%
Magical Damage Decrease: 44%

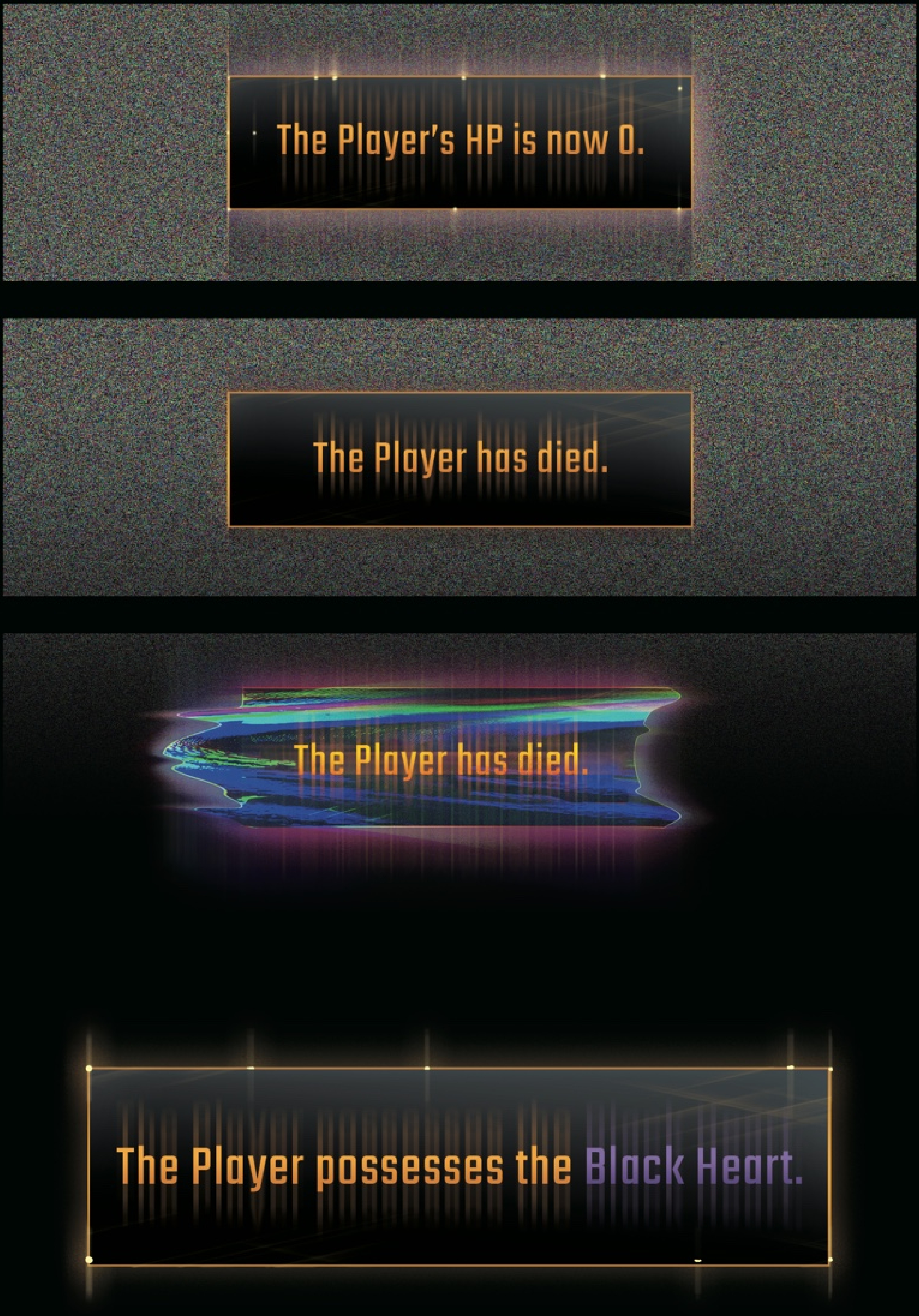
[Passive Skill]

(Unknown)	Lv.MAX
Willpower	Lv.1
Dagger Master	Lv.MAX

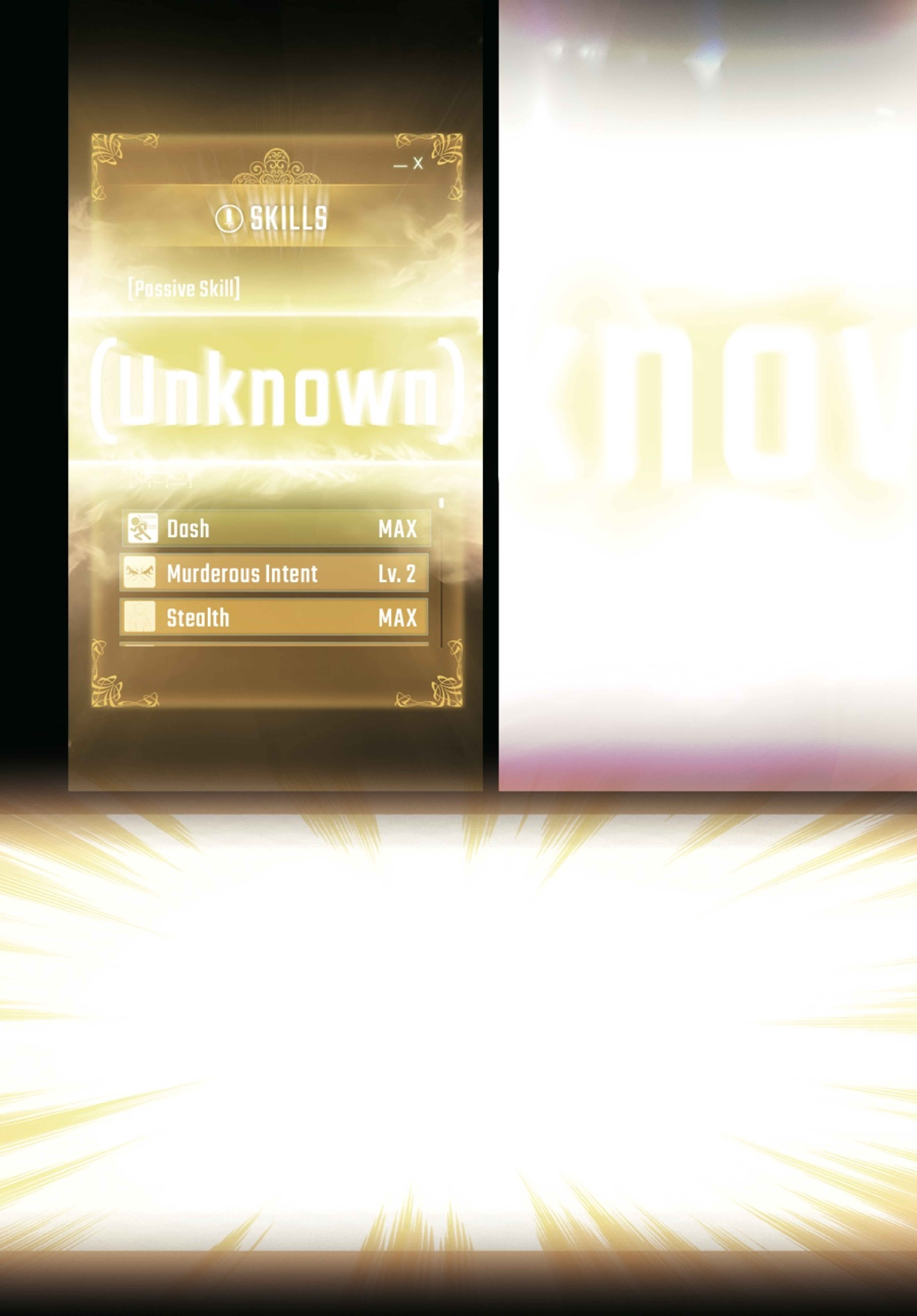
CLATTER
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
I'VE LEVELED UP. THIS IS NOTHING...!
I WILL RETURN YOUR WEAPON TO YOU.
NOW, CAN YOU RECOVER AS BEFORE?
SHUNK
NO, YOU CAN'T. BECAUSE YOU'RE AN IMPERFECT MONARCH DESPITE YOUR POWER.
KRIK
KRIK
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT, HUMAN?
THEN I'M AFRAID YOU WON'T LIVE TO SEE...
...THE DAY OUR ARMIES DESCEND ON THIS PLANE.


NOR THE MOUNTAINS OF HUMAN CORPSES AND THE RIVERS OF BLOOD...
...THEY WILL LEAVE IN THEIR WAKE.
HOWEVER, YOUR HOMELAND WILL SUFFER A DIFFERENT FATE.
I SHALL PERSONALLY FREEZE THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY COME FROM THE SAME WRETCHED PLACE AS YOU DO.
THEY WILL BE MADE TO LIVE THE REST OF ETERNITY IN A STATE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.

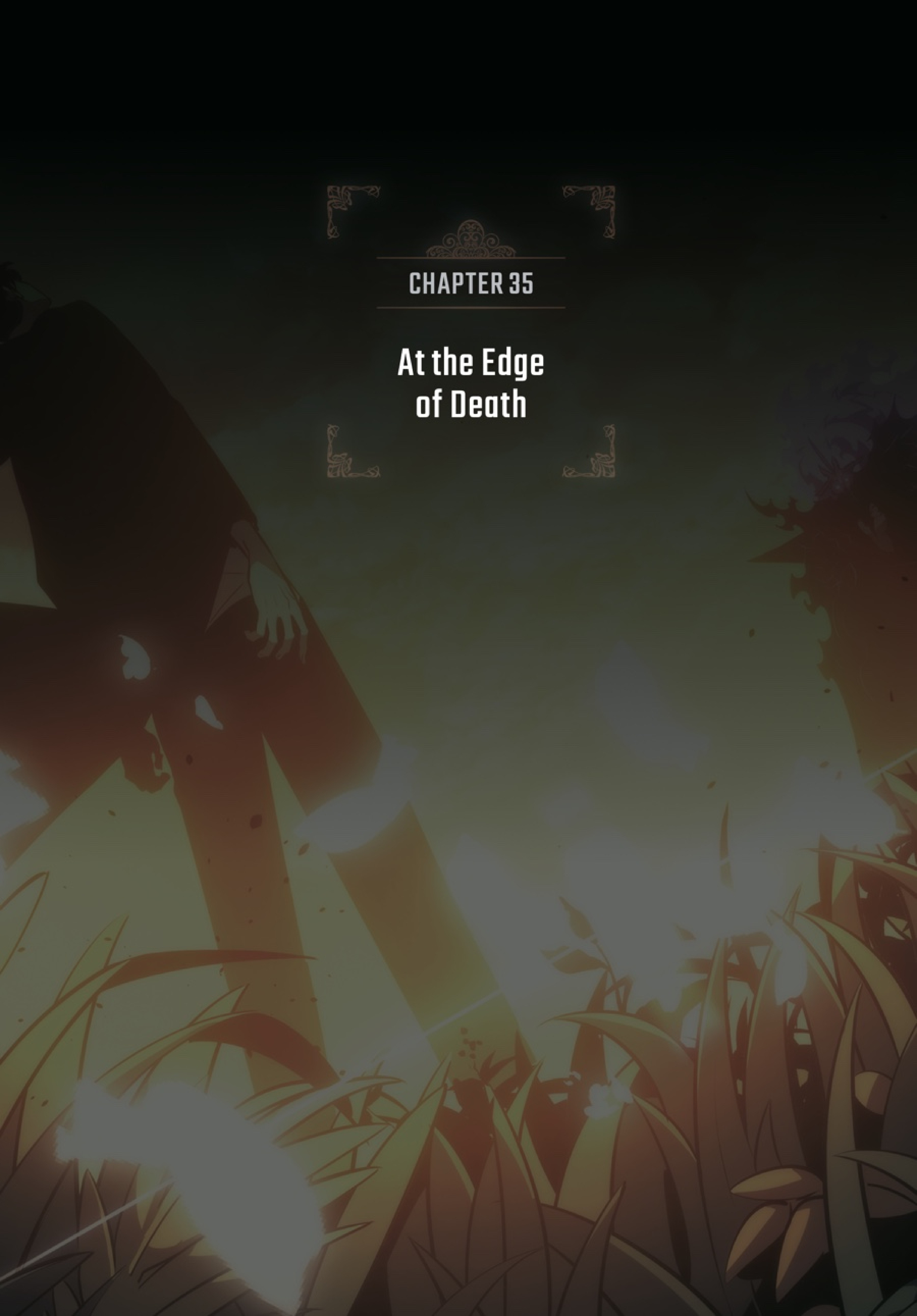
CONTINUE TO HATE ME EVEN IN DEATH, FOR THAT WILL ALSO BRING ME GREAT PLEASURE.
KRIK
KRIIIK
NO...
I CAN STILL...
I CAN STILL...!


The Player's HP is now 0.
The Player has died.
The Player has died.
The Player possesses the Black Heart.

All the requirements for Passive Skill: (Unknown) have been met.
SKILLS
[Passive Skill]
(Unknown) MAX
Willpower Lv. 1
Dagger Master MAX
[Active Skill]
Dash MAX
Murderous Intent Lv. 2
Stealth MAX
[Passive Skill: (Unknown)] has been activated.
SKILLS
[Passive Skill]
(Unknown) MAX
Willpower Lv. 1
Dagger Master MAX
[Active Skill]
Dash MAX
Murderous Intent Lv. 2
Stealth MAX
SKILLS
[Passive Skill]
(Unknown) MAX
Willpower Lv. 1
Dagger Master MAX
[Active Skill]
Dash MAX
Murderous Intent Lv. 2
Stealth MAX


SKILLS
[Passive Skill]
(Unknown)
Dash MAX
Murderous Intent Lv. 2
Stealth MAX

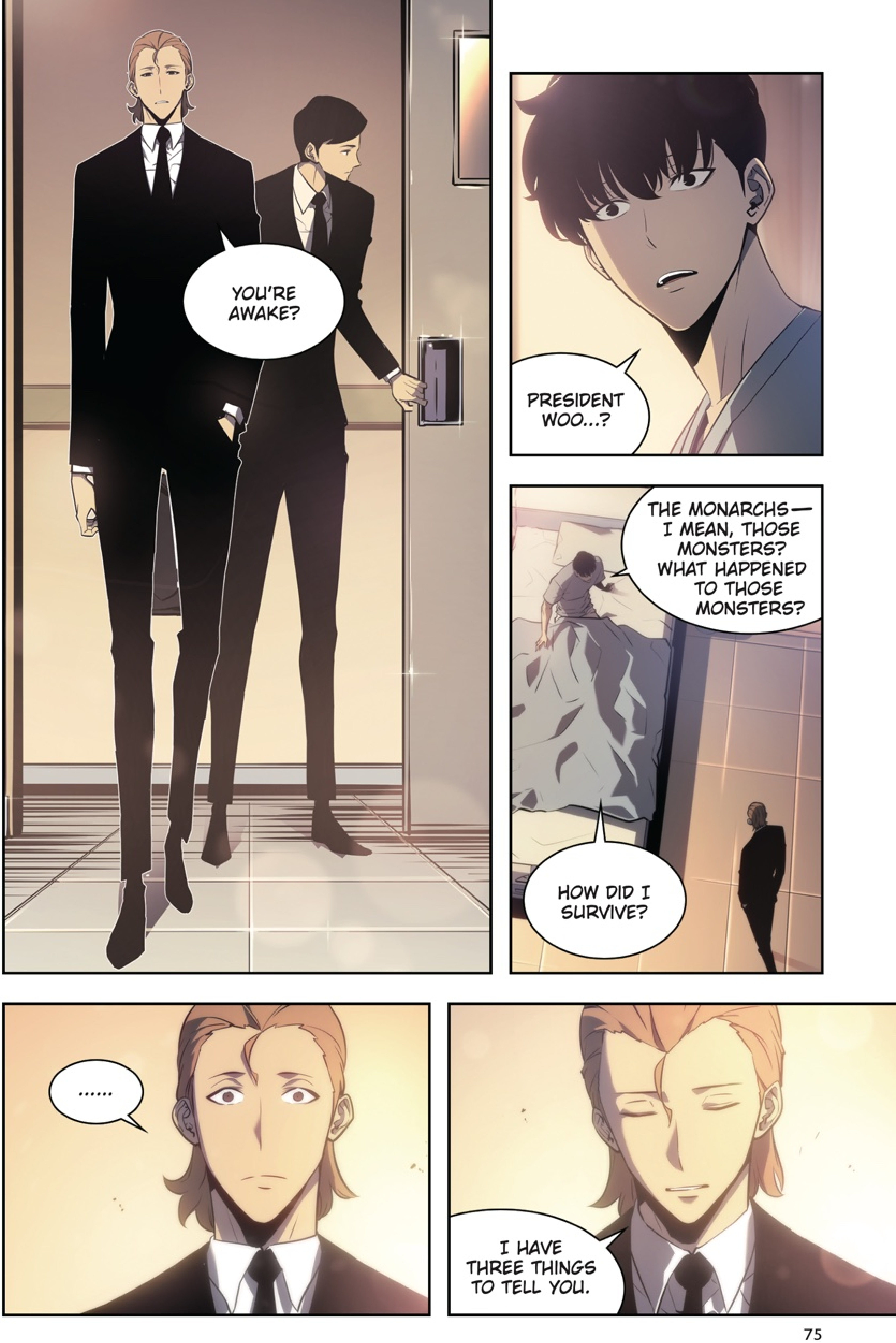
BOLT
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!

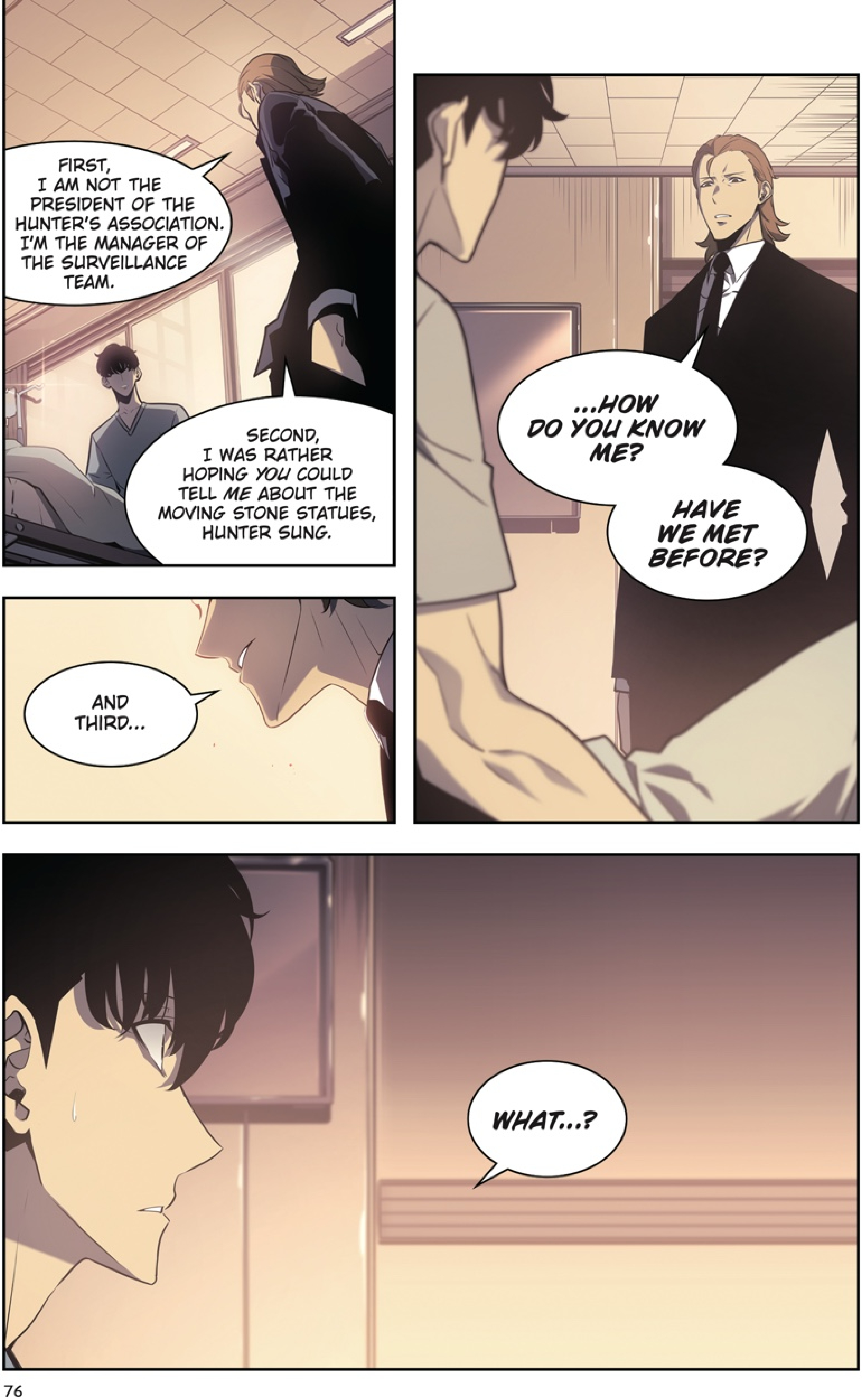

CHAPTER 35
At the Edge of Death

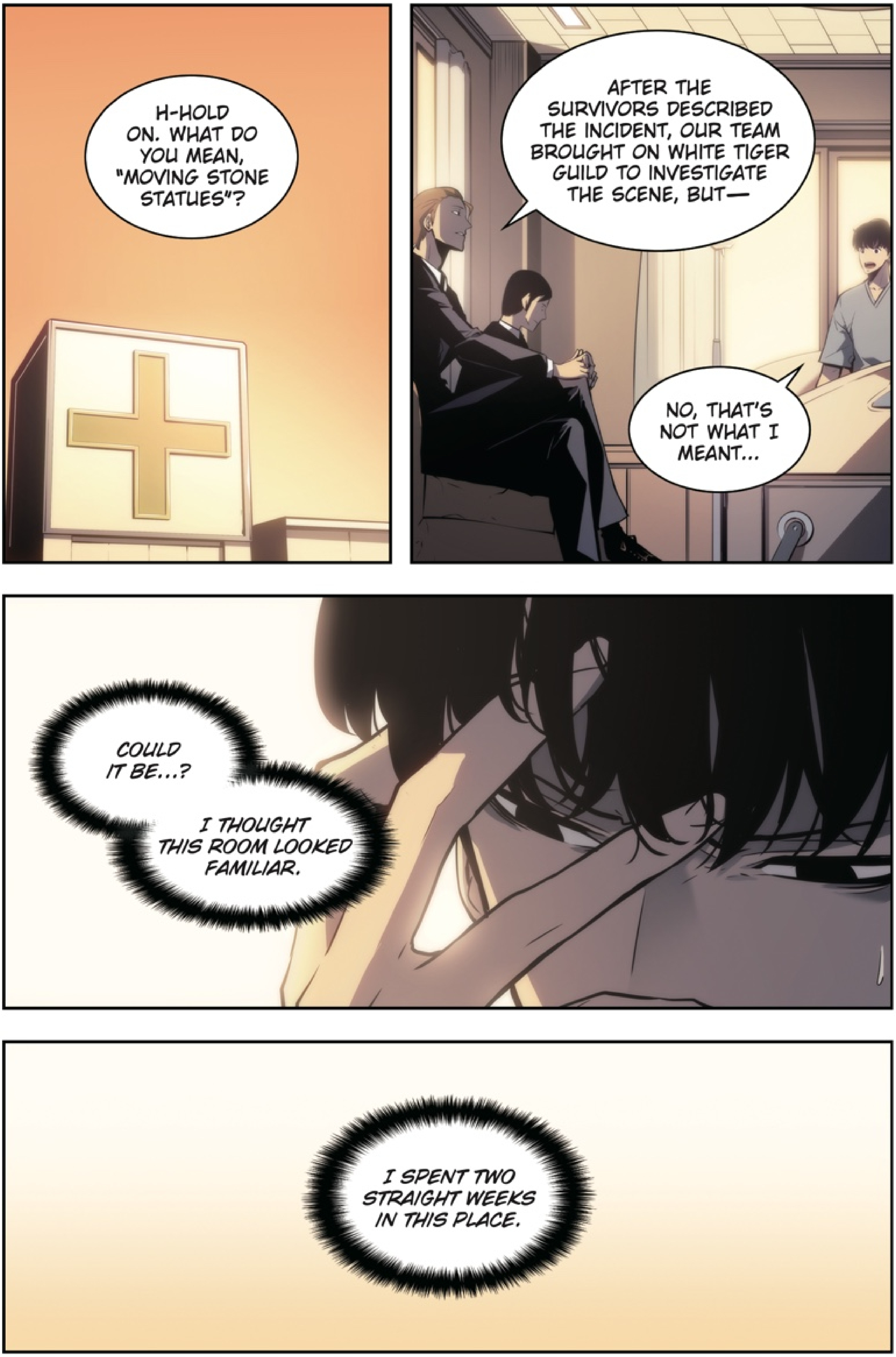
Solo Leveling

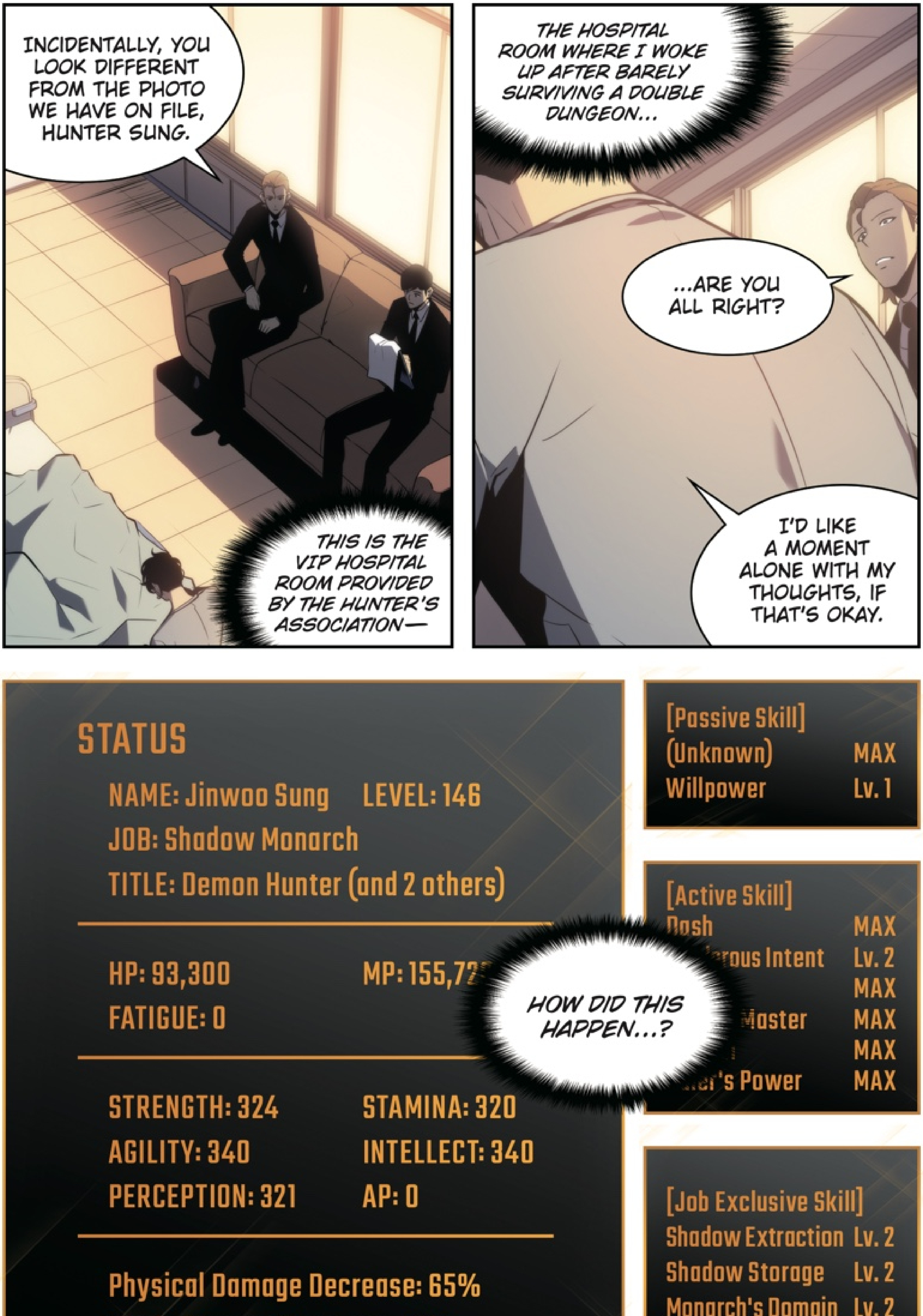
HUFF!
HUFF!
GUESS YOU'RE NOTHING WITHOUT YOUR PRECIOUS SPEED.
I WILL RETURN YOUR WEAPON TO YOU.
NOW, CAN YOU RECOVER AS BEFORE?
SHUNK

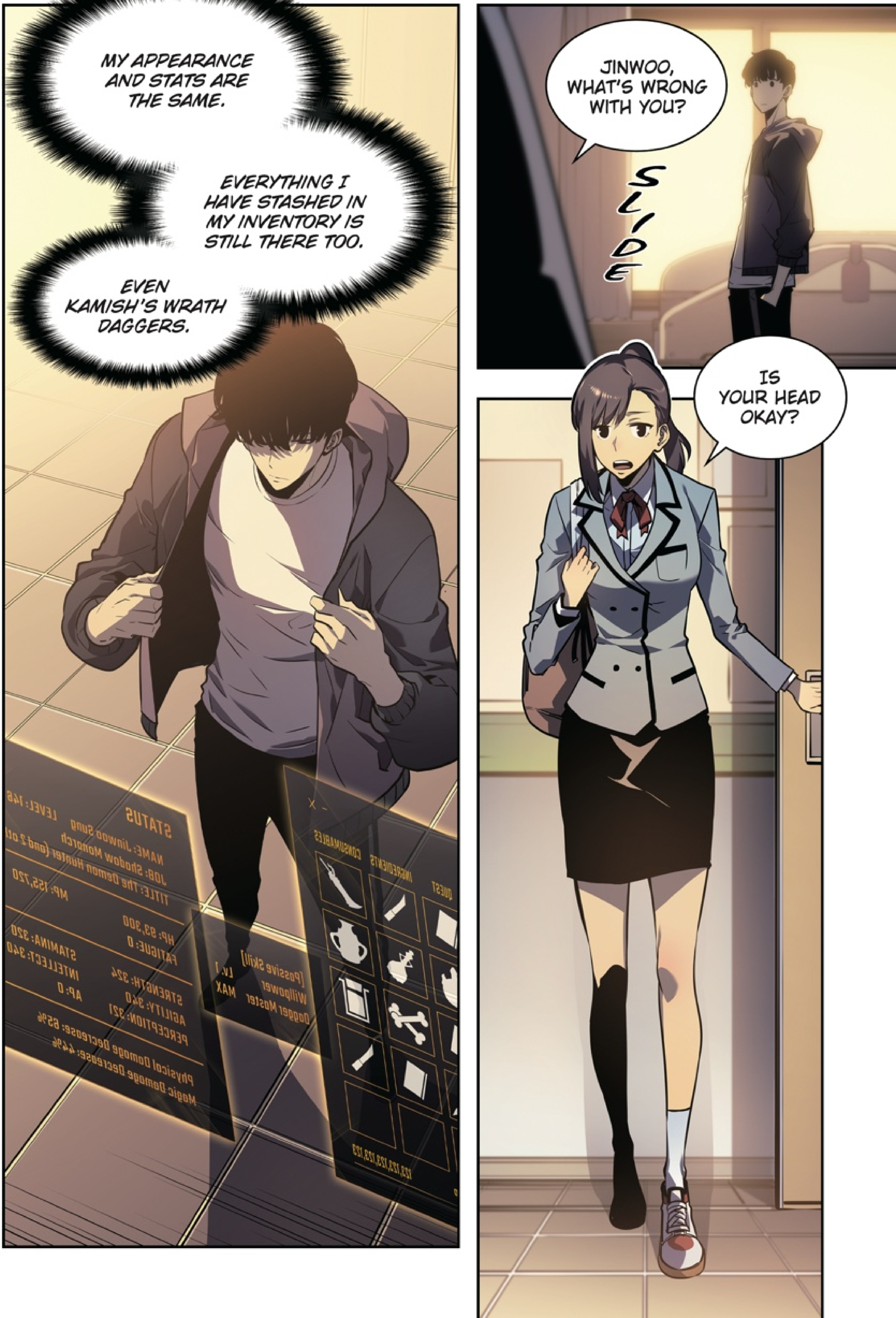
A DREAM...?
WAS IT A DREAM?
A HOSPITAL?
I'M POSITIVE THAT ICE-COLD DAGGER STABBED ME THROUGH THE HEART.
BUT... I'M ALIVE?

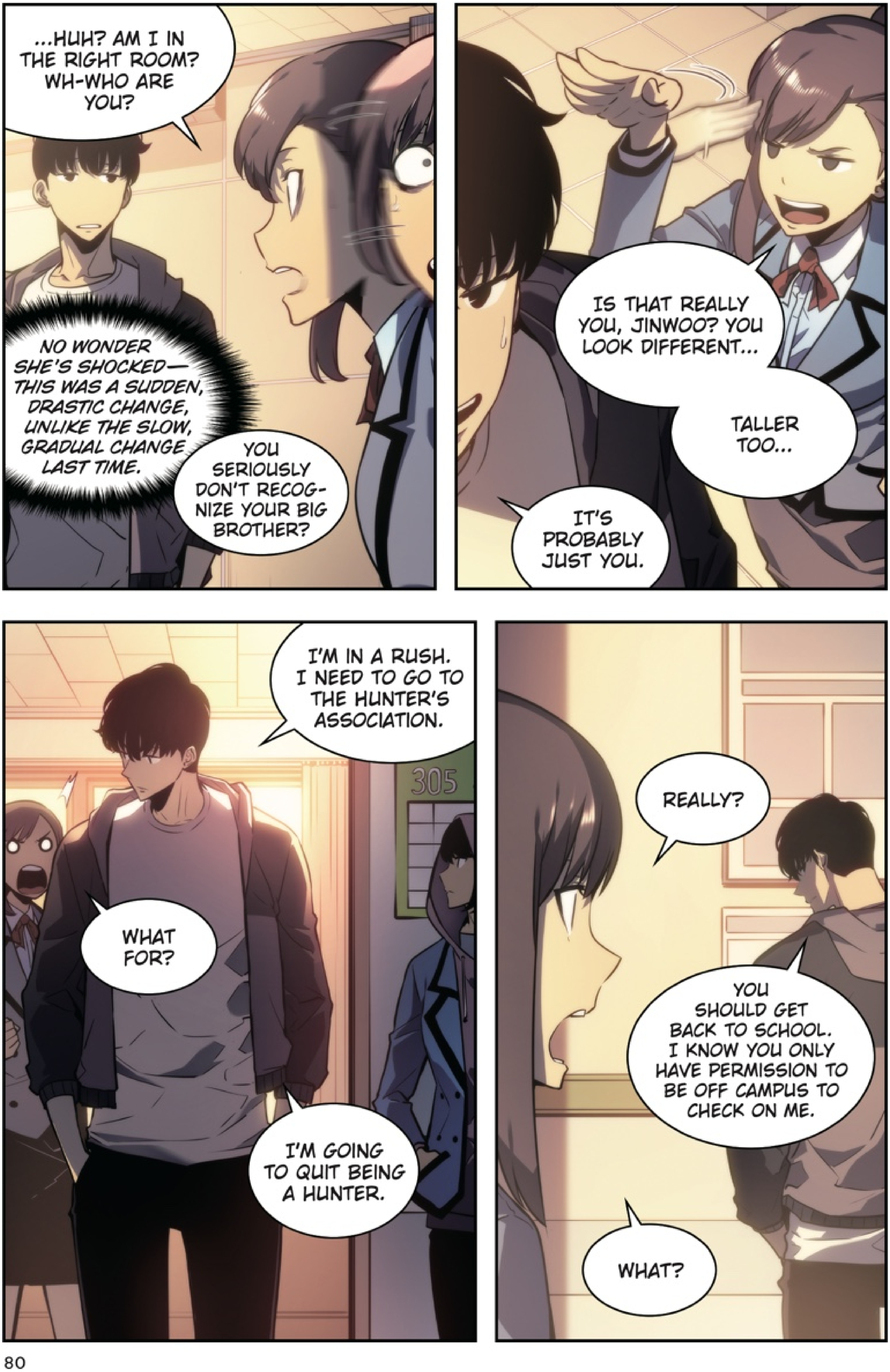

YOU'RE AWAKE?
PRESIDENT WOO...?
THE MONARCHS— I MEAN, THOSE MONSTERS? WHAT HAPPENED TO THOSE MONSTERS?
HOW DID I SURVIVE?
......
I HAVE THREE THINGS TO TELL YOU.


FIRST, I AM NOT THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION. I'M THE MANAGER OF THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM.
SECOND, I WAS RATHER HOPING *YOU* COULD TELL *ME* ABOUT THE MOVING STONE STATUES, HUNTER SUNG.
...HOW DO YOU KNOW ME?
HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
AND THIRD...
WHAT...?


H-HOLD ON. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "MOVING STONE STATUES"?
AFTER THE SURVIVORS DESCRIBED THE INCIDENT, OUR TEAM BROUGHT ON WHITE TIGER GUILD TO INVESTIGATE THE SCENE, BUT—
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
COULD IT BE...?
I THOUGHT THIS ROOM LOOKED FAMILIAR.
I SPENT TWO STRAIGHT WEEKS IN THIS PLACE.


INCIDENTALLY, YOU LOOK DIFFERENT FROM THE PHOTO WE HAVE ON FILE, HUNTER SUNG.
THIS IS THE VIP HOSPITAL ROOM PROVIDED BY THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION—
THE HOSPITAL ROOM WHERE I WOKE UP AFTER BARELY SURVIVING A DOUBLE DUNGEON...
...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'D LIKE A MOMENT ALONE WITH MY THOUGHTS, IF THAT'S OKAY.
STATUS
NAME: Jinwoo Sung LEVEL: 146
JOB: Shadow Monarch
TITLE: Demon Hunter (and 2 others)
HP: 93,300 MP: 155,72
FATIGUE: 0
STRENGTH: 324 STAMINA: 320
AGILITY: 340 INTELLECT: 340
PERCEPTION: 321 AP: 0
Physical Damage Decrease: 65%
Magic Damage Decrease: 44%
[Passive Skill]
(Unknown) MAX
Willpower Lv. 1
[Active Skill]
Dash MAX
rous Intent Lv. 2
MAX
Master MAX
MAX
r's Power MAX
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN...?
[Job Exclusive Skill]
Shadow Extraction Lv. 2
Shadow Storage Lv. 2
Monarch's Domain Lv. 2
Shadow Exchange Lv. 2


MY APPEARANCE AND STATS ARE THE SAME.
EVERYTHING I HAVE STASHED IN MY INVENTORY IS STILL THERE TOO.
EVEN KAMISH'S WRATH DAGGERS.
JINWOO, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
SLIDE
IS YOUR HEAD OKAY?



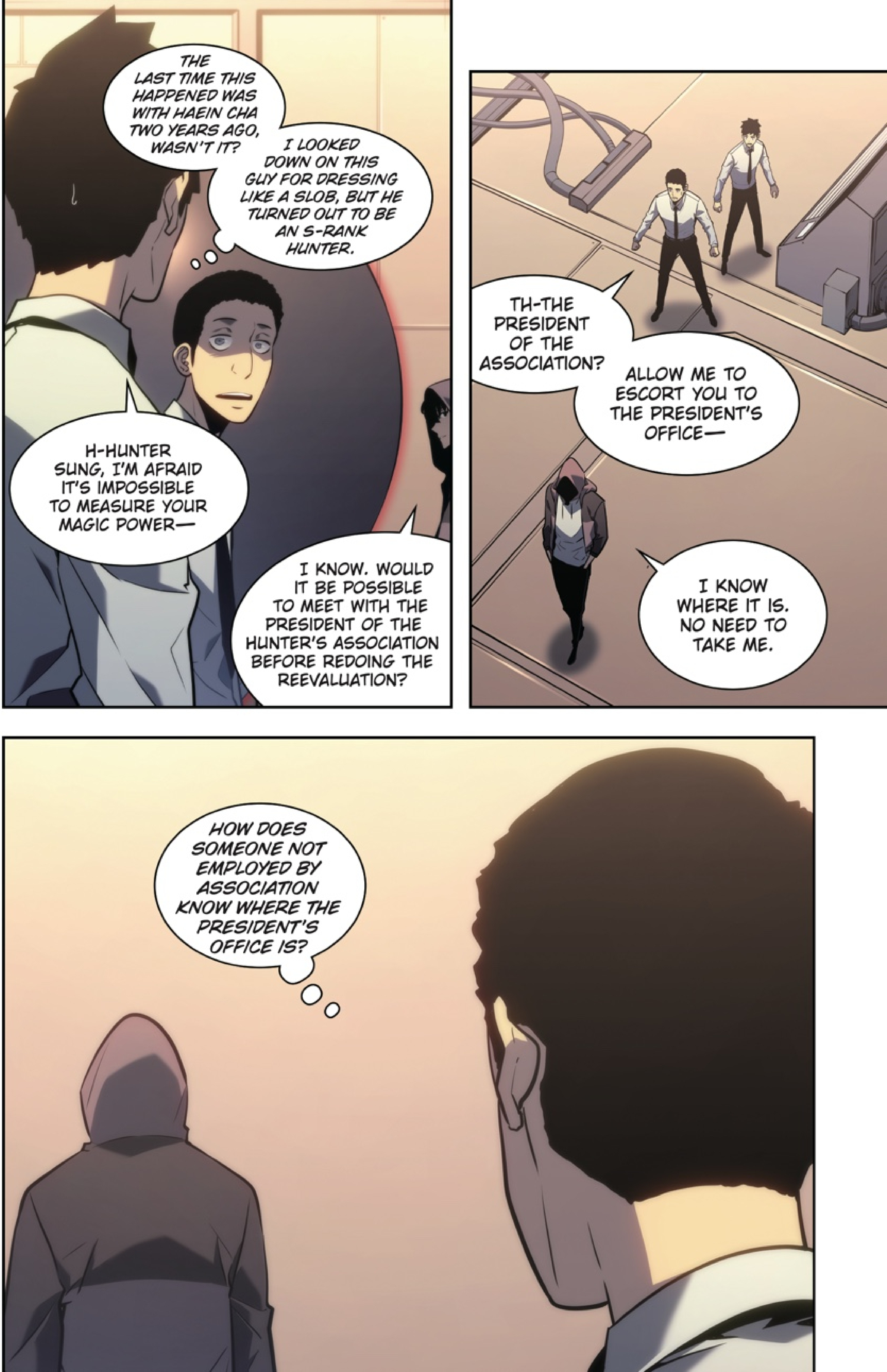
...HUH? AM I IN THE RIGHT ROOM? WH-WHO ARE YOU?
NO WONDER SHE'S SHOCKED— THIS WAS A SUDDEN, DRASTIC CHANGE, UNLIKE THE SLOW, GRADUAL CHANGE LAST TIME.
YOU SERIOUSLY DON'T RECOG-NIZE YOUR BIG BROTHER?
IS THAT REALLY YOU, JINWOO? YOU LOOK DIFFERENT...
TALLER TOO...
IT'S PROBABLY JUST YOU.
I'M IN A RUSH. I NEED TO GO TO THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION.
305
WHAT FOR?
I'M GOING TO QUIT BEING A HUNTER.
REALLY?
YOU SHOULD GET BACK TO SCHOOL. I KNOW YOU ONLY HAVE PERMISSION TO BE OFF CAMPUS TO CHECK ON ME.
WHAT?

YOU TOO, SONGYI HAN.
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT BECOMING A HUNTER JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANNA GO TO SCHOOL.

SORRY?
HOW DOES HE KNOW MY NAME...?

I DON'T HAVE ANY SHADOW SOLDIERS LEFT, THOUGH...
315
SHF
I'LL HAVE TO COLLECT THEM AGAIN.

BUT...WHAT HAPPENED?
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE GONE BACK IN TIME.

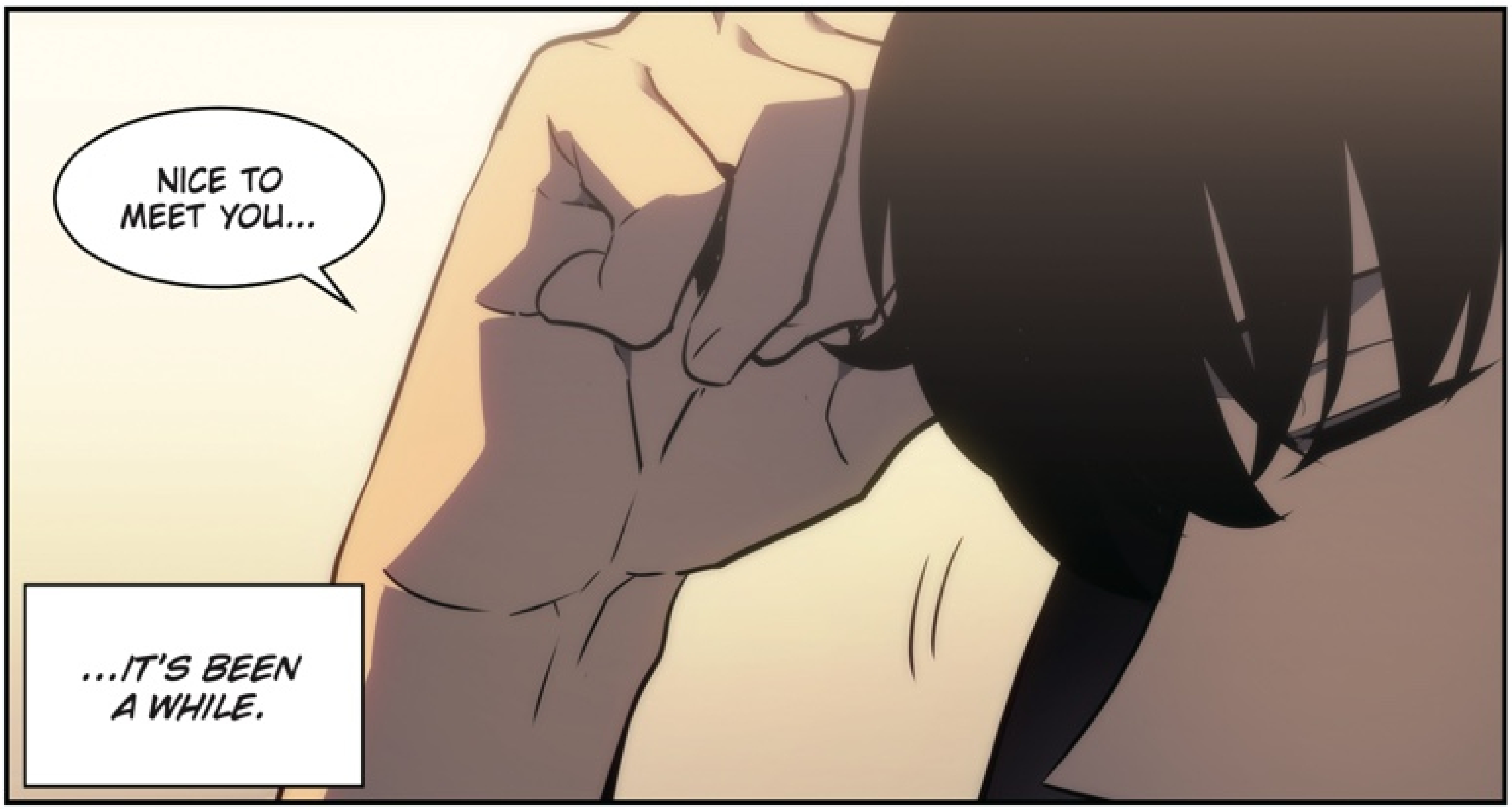

THE LAST TIME THIS HAPPENED WAS WITH HAEIN CHA TWO YEARS AGO, WASN'T IT?
I LOOKED DOWN ON THIS GUY FOR DRESSING LIKE A SLOB, BUT HE TURNED OUT TO BE AN S-RANK HUNTER.
H-HUNTER SUNG, I'M AFRAID IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO MEASURE YOUR MAGIC POWER—
I KNOW. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION BEFORE REDOING THE REEVALUATION?
TH-THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION?
ALLOW ME TO ESCORT YOU TO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE—
I KNOW WHERE IT IS. NO NEED TO TAKE ME.
HOW DOES SOMEONE NOT EMPLOYED BY ASSOCIATION KNOW WHERE THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE IS?

WHRR
♪~
기대면 추락 위험
손대지 마세요
HMM... WHAT KIND OF STORY SHOULD I FEED THEM TODAY?
I'VE GIVEN THE ASSOCIATION MADE-UP EXCUSES TOO MANY TIMES.
I'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF I FALL OUT OF FAVOR WITH MANAGER WOO.

YOU HAVEN'T REPORTED TO THE ASSOCIATION THAT YOU CAN USE STEALTH.
!!
HOW DO YOU KNOW...?!
YOU'RE NOT ON THE WATCH LIST OF ANY HIGH-RANK HUNTERS.
SOMEONE WILL ASK YOU TO AVENGE HIS DAUGHTER.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO WITH THE CRIMINALS.
BUT IF YOU HARM ANY INNOCENT HUNTERS...
...I'LL KILL YOU.

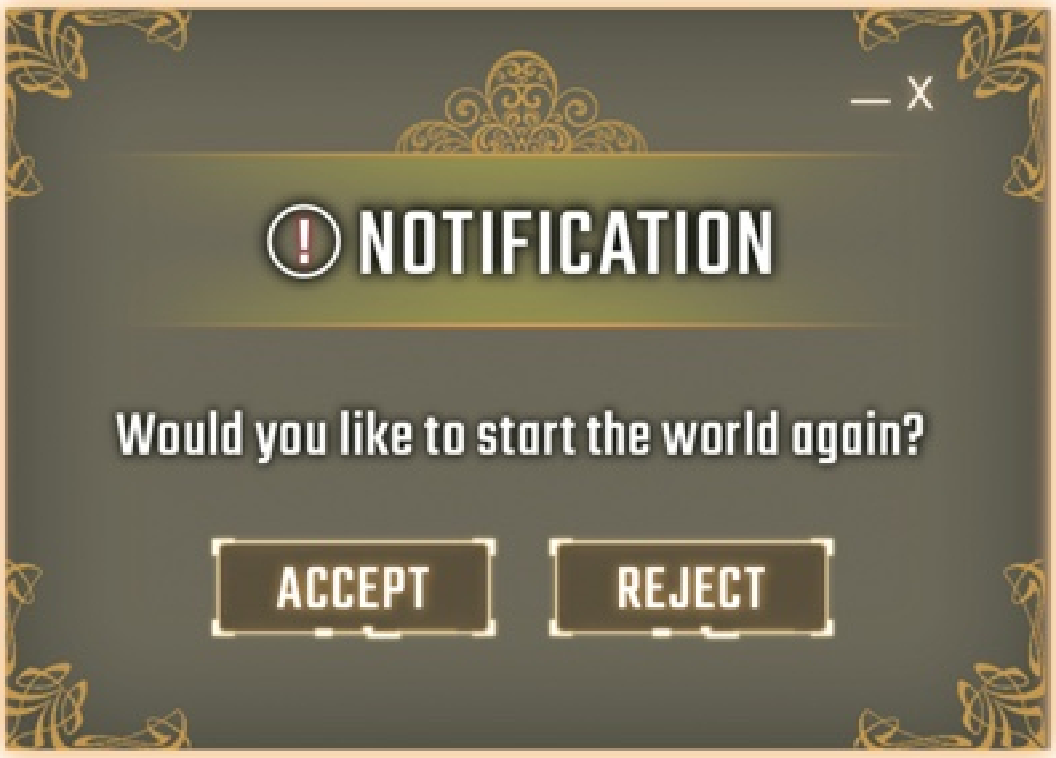
THIS IS YOUR ONE WARNING.
WAIT... WHO ARE YOU?
......
I FEEL LIKE I JUST SAW A GHOST...

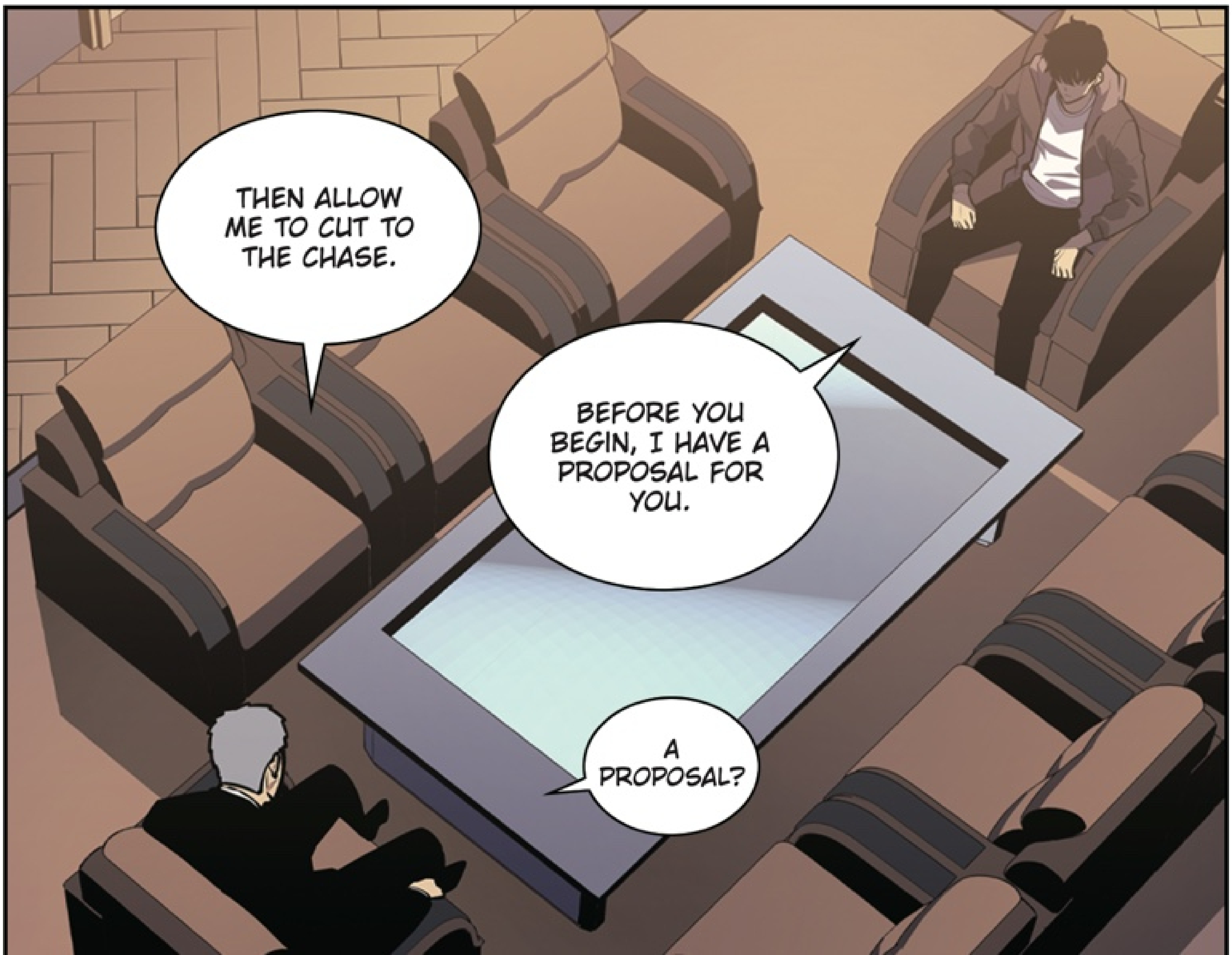
I FEEL LIKE...


NICE TO MEET YOU...
...IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

...PRESIDENT GO.
SEEING AS YOU CAME STRAIGHT HERE AFTER THE REEVALUATION, IT APPEARS YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE PROCESS.

SOMETHING WRONG?
NO, IT'S NOTHING.

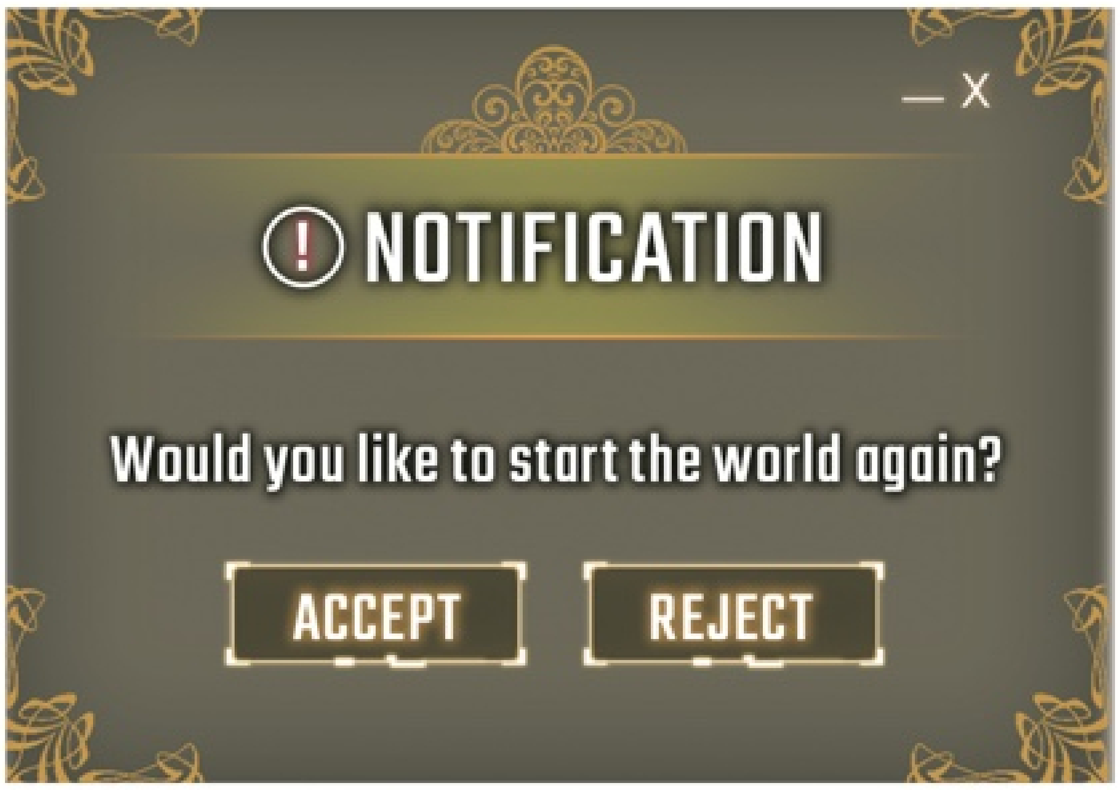

NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT

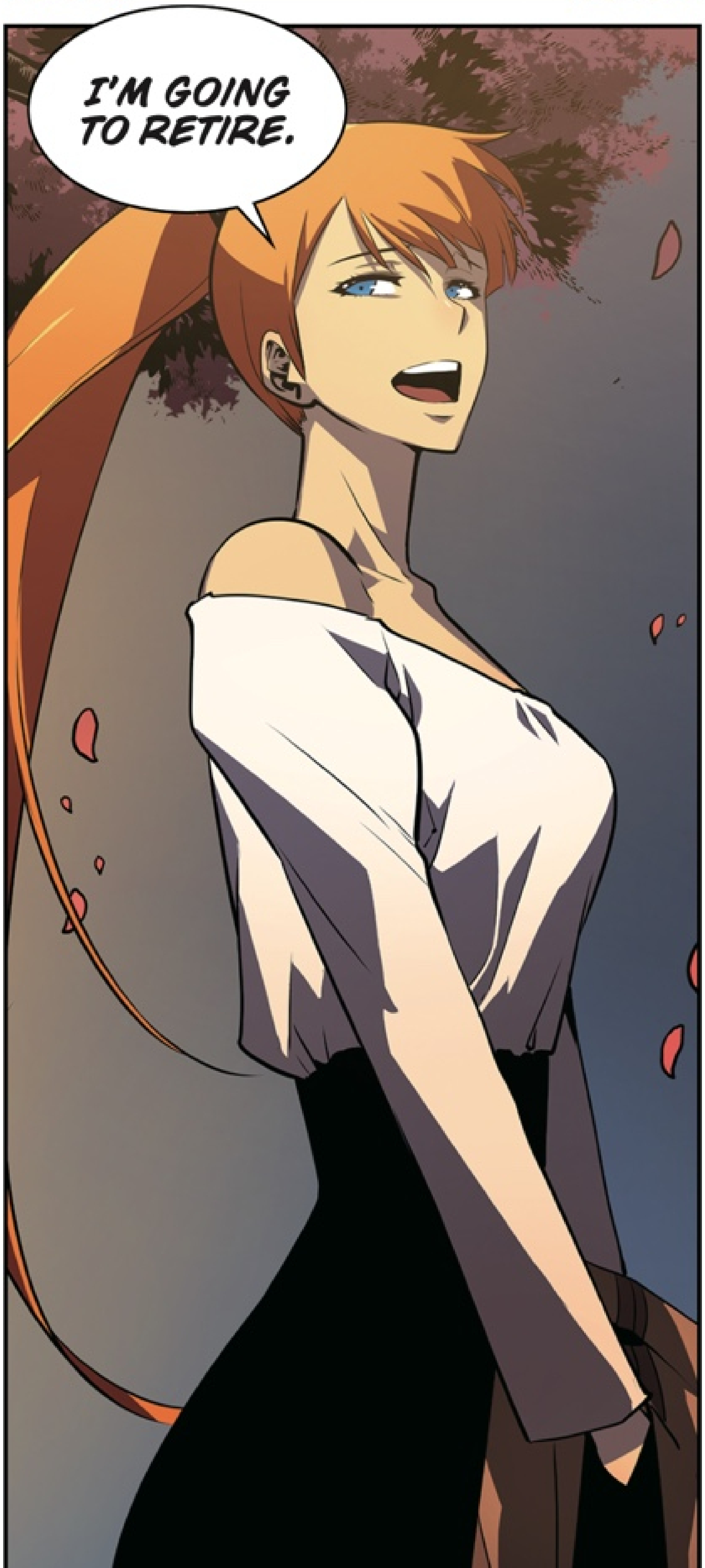

THEN ALLOW ME TO CUT TO THE CHASE.
BEFORE YOU BEGIN, I HAVE A PROPOSAL FOR YOU.
A PROPOSAL?

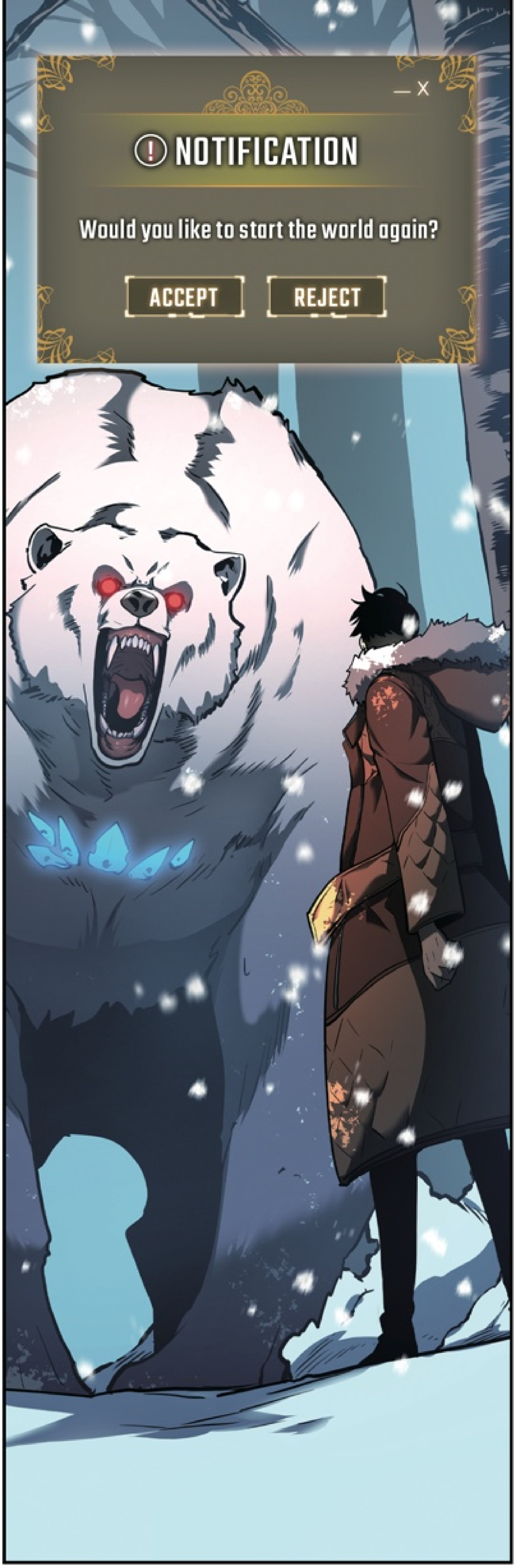
MY PRIORITY IS GETTING TO JEJU ISLAND TO REPLENISH MY ARMY.
NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT
PLEASE CHANGE THE RULES SO THAT A HUNTER'S MINIONS CAN BE COUNTED AS STRIKE SQUAD MEMBERS.
THEN I'LL KILL THE ANTS ON JEJU ISLAND.
STOP TALKING NONSENSE...!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES WE'VE FAILED THE JEJU ISLAND RAID?
?!

THIS ENERGY IS...?!
ONLY I CAN DO THIS. PLEASE LET ME HANDLE IT.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF THE ANTS ON JEJU ISLAND.

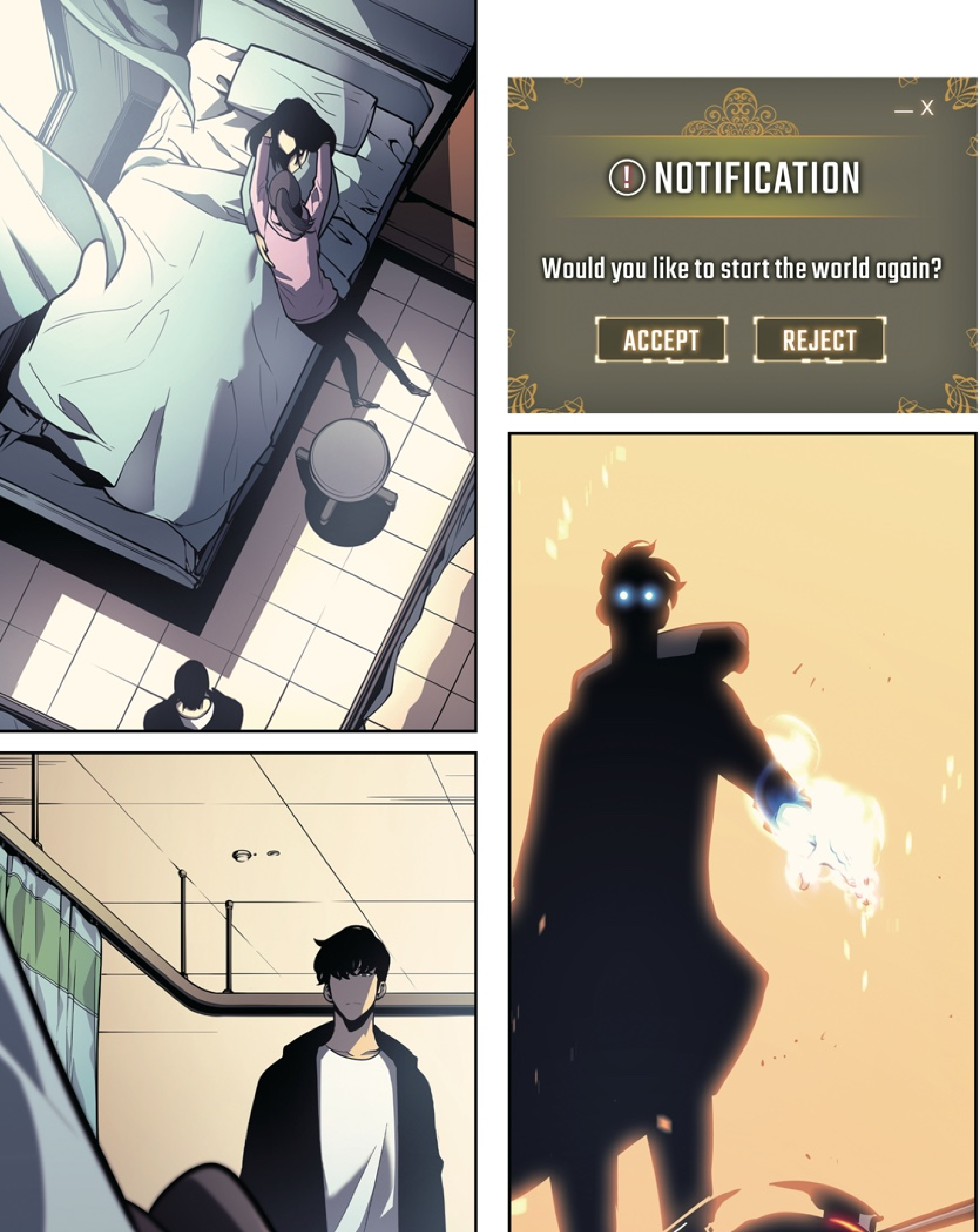
POWER BEYOND EVEN NATIONAL-LEVEL HUNTERS...!
HOW... HOW COULD THIS...?
...WHAT IS THIS?


— X
NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT


I'M GOING TO RETIRE.

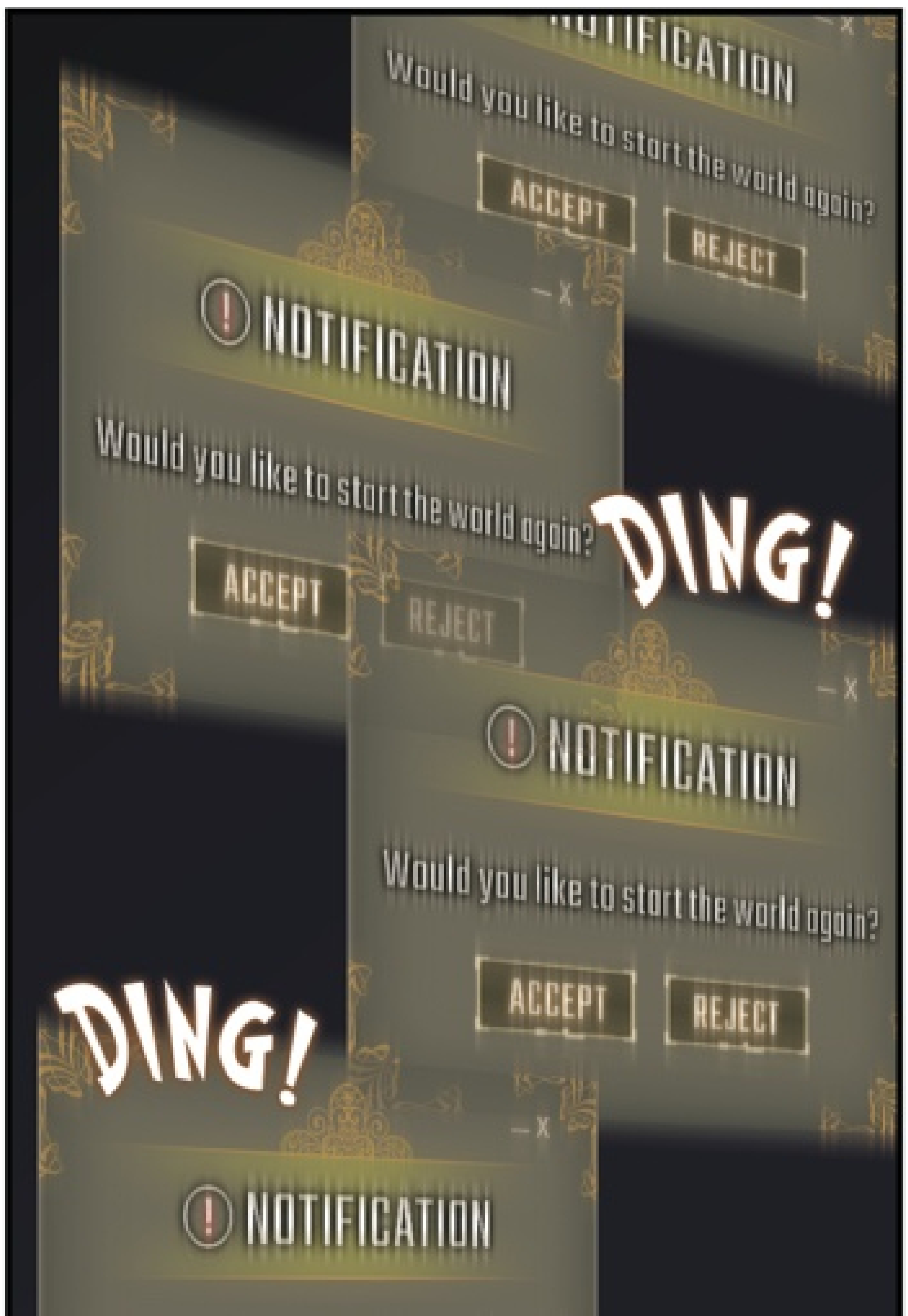

NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT

NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT


— X
NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT

— X
NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT

PFFT!
...LET'S STOP THIS.
I KNOW THIS IS ALL FAKE!
KNOCK IT OFF AND REVEAL YOURSELF!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO WATCH ME FROM UP THERE?!


NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT
NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT
DING!
NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT
DING!
NOTIFICATION

DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!
DING!
NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT
DING!
NOTIFICATION
Would you like to start the world again?
ACCEPT
REJECT
NOTIFICATION
DING!
DING!
DING!

WHO ARE YOU?
ARE YOU...
...THE KING OF THE DEAD?

YOU MAY STAY IN THIS WORLD FOREVER IF YOU WISH.
IT WOULD BE LIKE NEVER WAKING FROM A HAPPY DREAM.
ARE YOU INVITING ME TO STAY TRAPPED IN THIS FANTASY YOU'VE CREATED?

NO, I DIDN'T BUILD THIS WORLD.
THIS IS OF YOUR MAKING.
EXCUSE ME?
THIS WORLD WAS CREATED BY YOUR DESIRE TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE MISTAKES YOU'VE MADE...
...COUPLED WITH MY POWER.
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS MY DOMAIN.
ETERNAL REST...
DEATH.

I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR MUCH LONGER THAN YOU THINK.
YOU, THE ONE HUMAN WHO WAS CLOSEST TO DEATH BUT WHO ALSO RESISTED IT MORE DESPERATELY THAN ANYONE.
I AM THE HISTORY OF YOUR STRUGGLE, THE EVIDENCE OF YOUR RESISTANCE, AND THE REWARD OF YOUR PAIN.
I AM DEATH, REST, AND FEAR ALL AT ONCE.
I...
RUSTLE

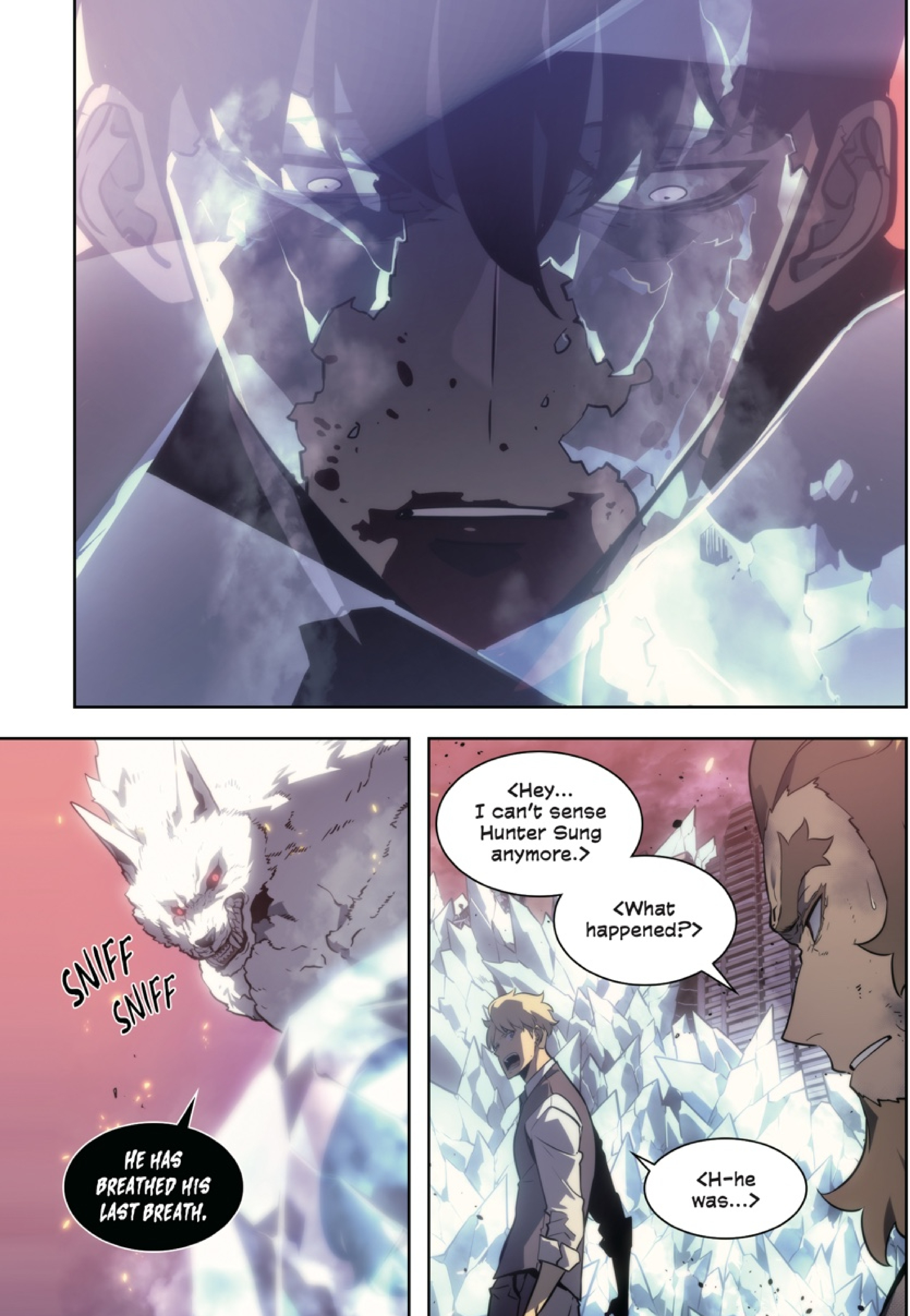
...AM YOU.
IN MY DOMAIN, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WISH.
WHOOSH

I CAN MAKE MY SOLDIERS YOURS.
FLUTTER
AND YOU CAN ABSORB MY POWER THROUGH THEM.
WITHER
ALTHOUGH IT'S LIMITED TO MY DOMAIN...

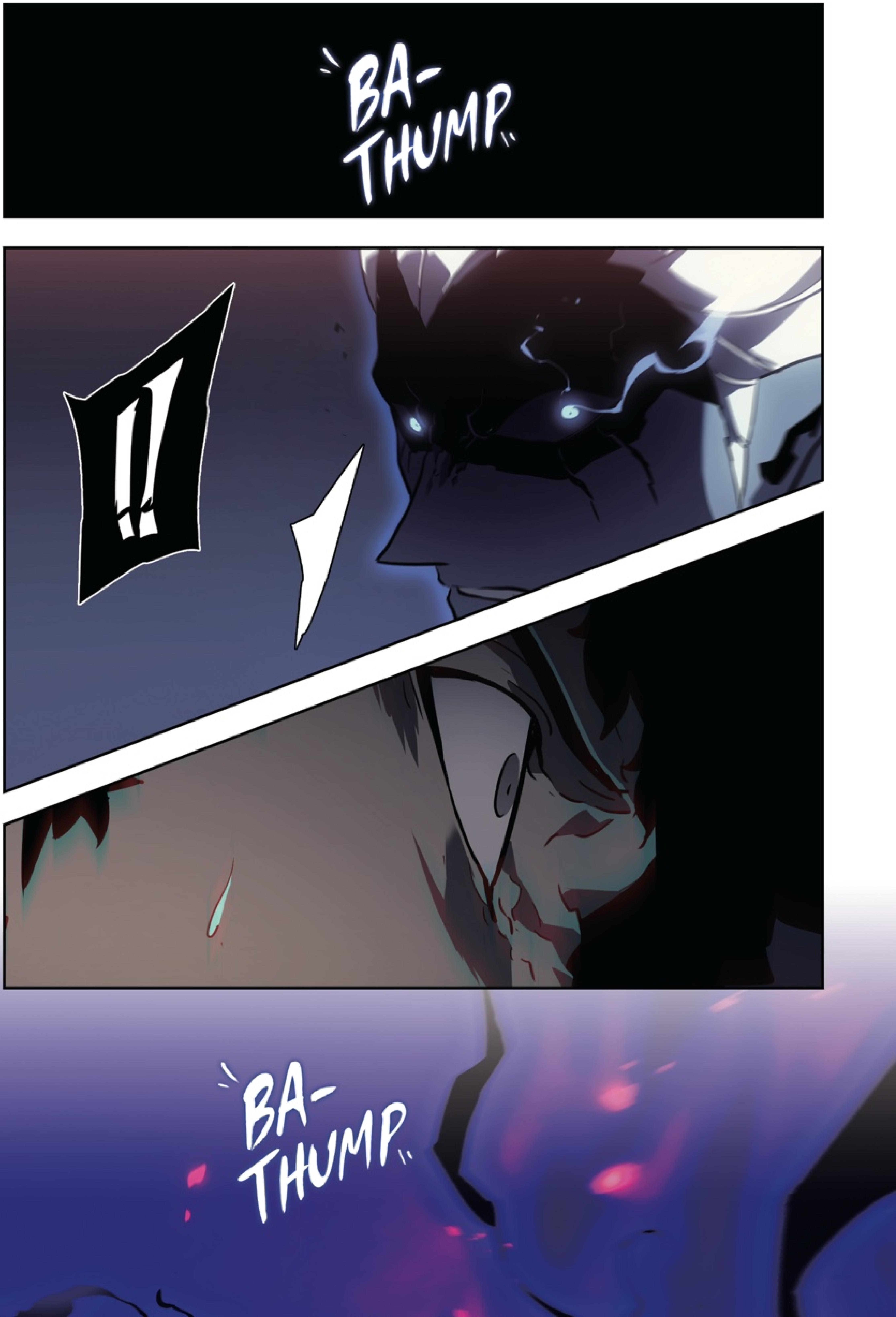
...I HAVE THE ABILITY TO CREATE, UNMAKE, AND TRANSFORM THIS WORLD.
IT'S AN ALMIGHTY POWER.
YOU MEAN, YOU AND I HAVE THE SAME POWER?

I'VE BEEN WAITING TO MEET YOU FOR A LONG TIME.
I AM THE SHADOW MONARCH...
...THE KING OF THE DEAD WHO WIELDS THE POWER OF DEATH ITSELF.
I AM THE OVERSEER OF THE DEEPEST REACHES OF DARKNESS.
BUT... WHY ME?

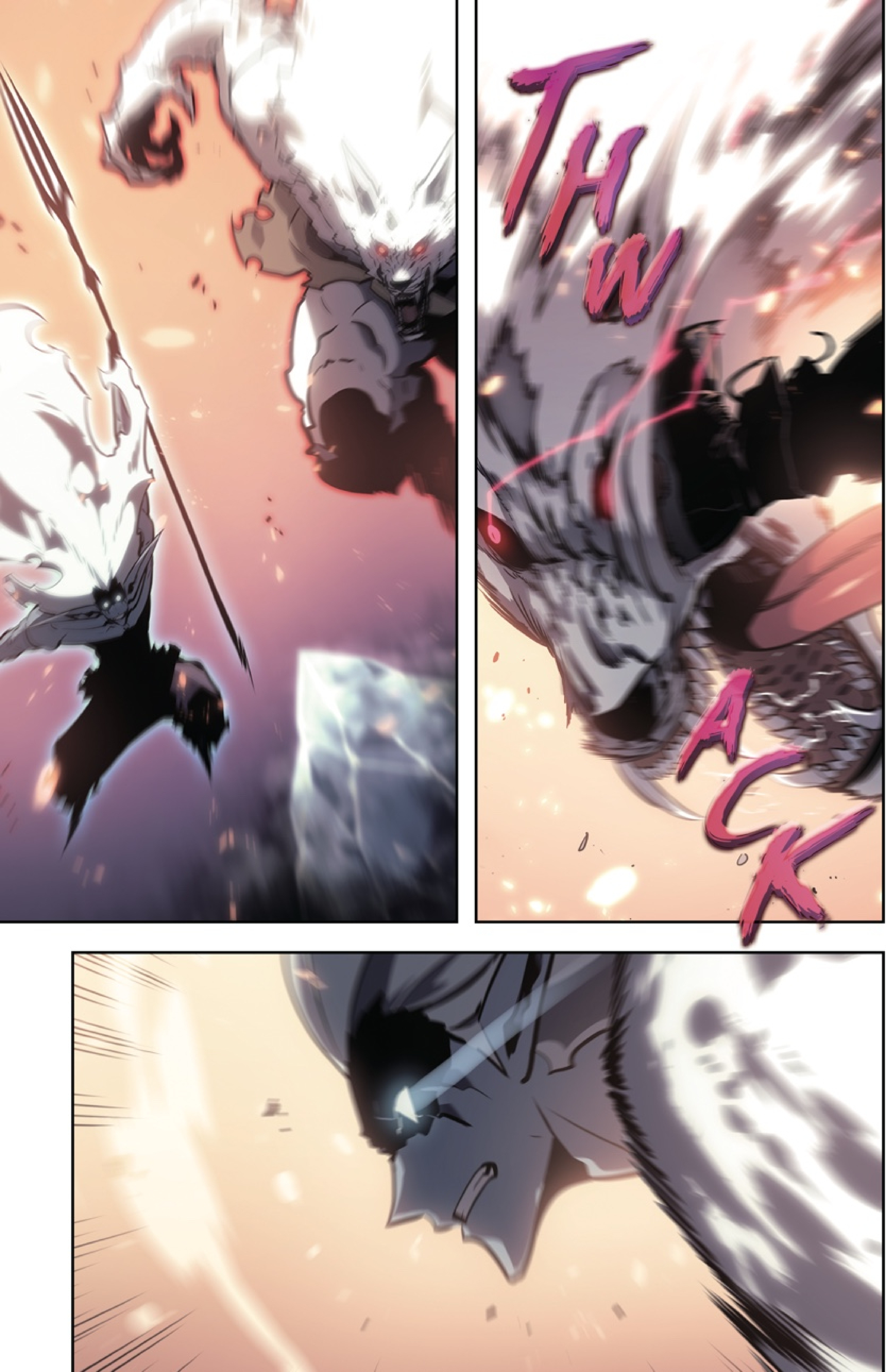
WHIIISH
I SHALL SHOW YOU...
...OUR BEGINNING AND OUR END...
...AS WELL AS YOUR BEGINNING.


SNIFF SNIFF
HE HAS BREATHED HIS LAST BREATH.
<Hey... I can't sense Hunter Sung anymore.>
<What happened?>
<H-he was...>

NO...
THERE'S NO ONE WHO CAN STOP THOSE MAGIC BEASTS NOW...
DAMN IT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED TO THAT MAN!
IF WE ATTACK THEM NOW, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP THEM—!
NO, WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!
WE CAN'T RETREAT SINCE THE HIGHEST-LEVEL HUNTERS WEREN'T ABLE TO STOP THOSE MAGIC BEASTS!
EVERYONE, GET READY TO FIRE! WE'LL SEND A VOLLEY ON MY SIGNAL!
TARGET THE ICE SLAYER-TYPE MAGIC BEAST!


BA-THUMP
!!
BA-THUMP

WHAT?
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN...?!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
NO...!
THIS CANNOT BE.
WE HAVE TO STOP THE ADVENT OF THE TRUE MONARCH BY KILLING THE VESSEL!

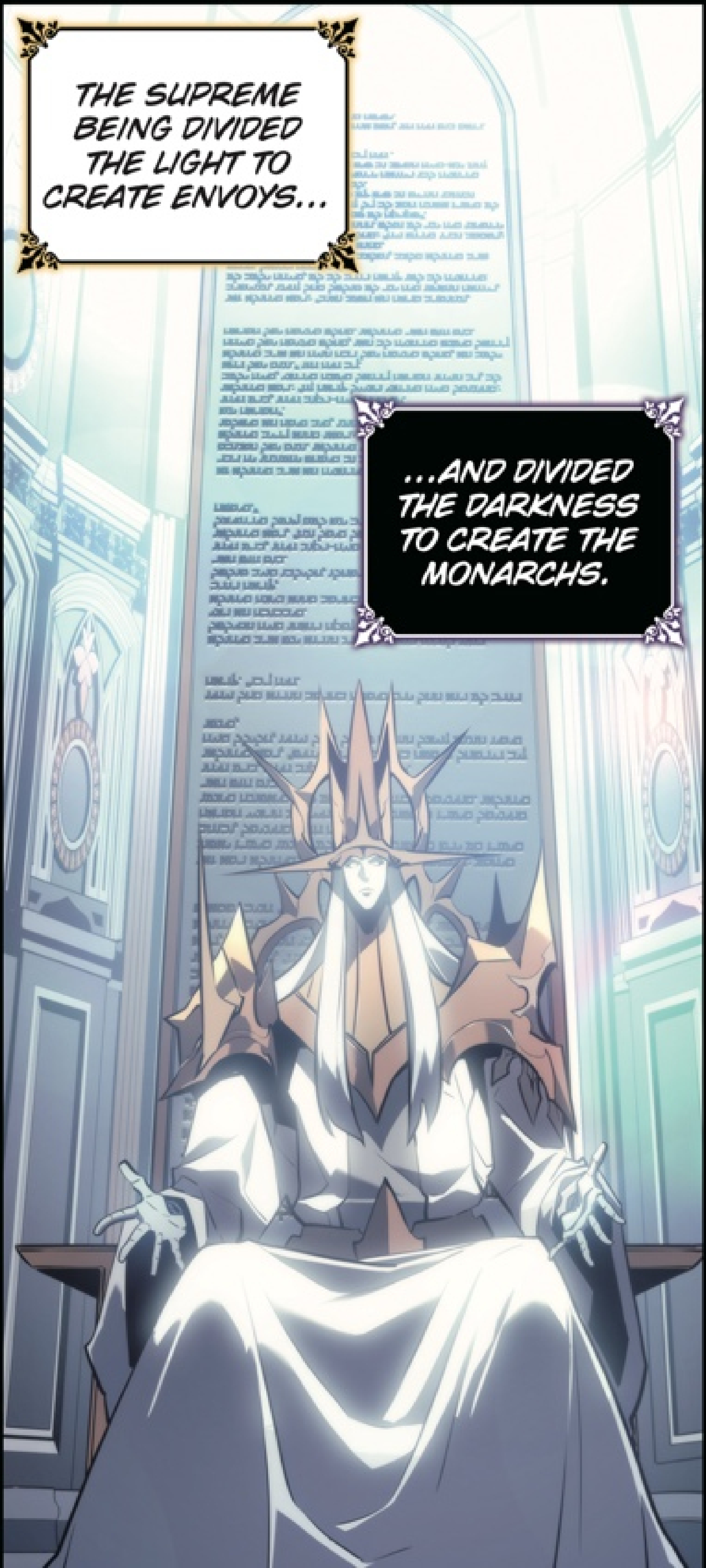

THWACK

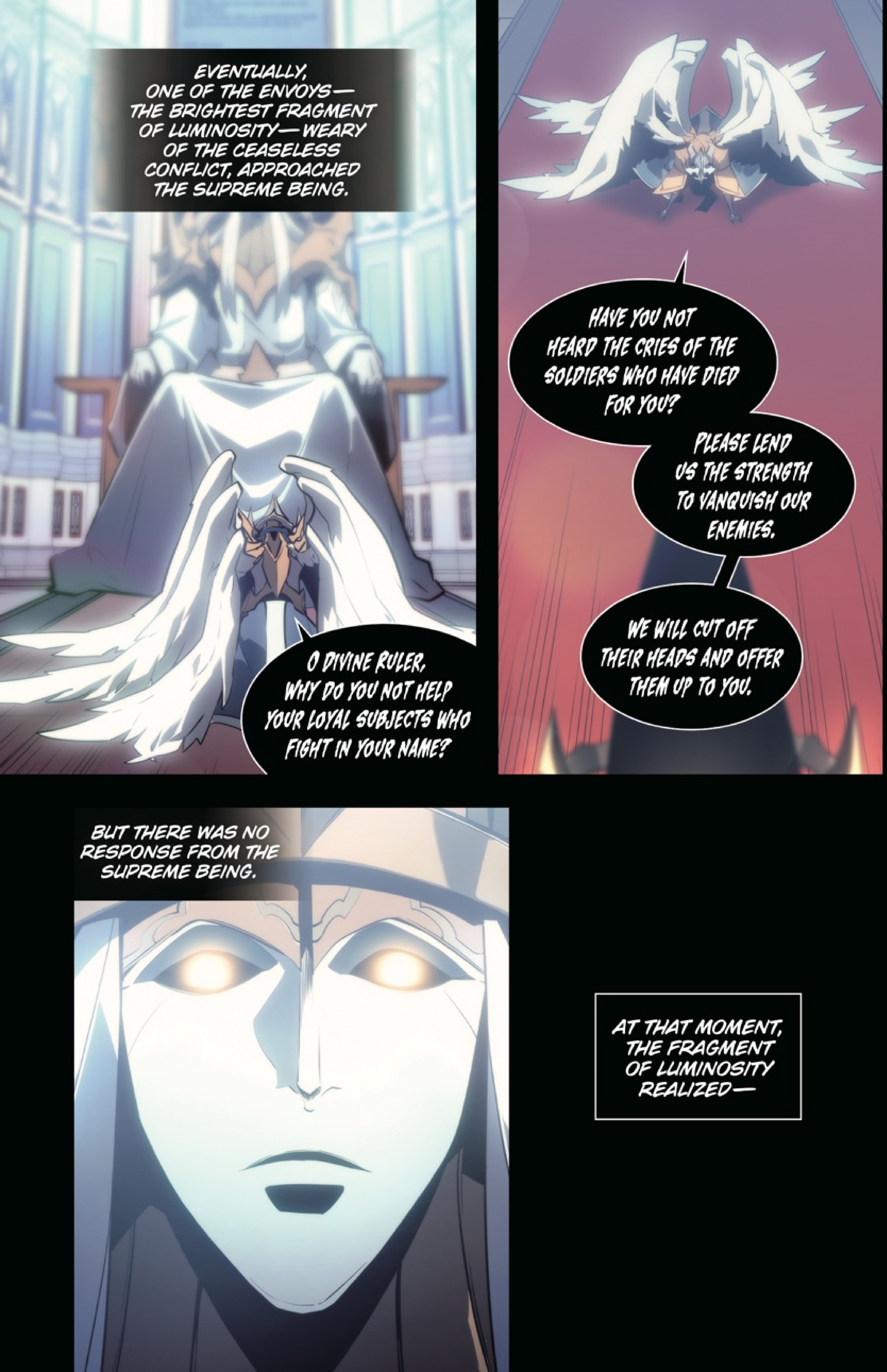
POW
WHAM
CRASH

FROM NOW ON...
...NOBODY WILL TOUCH THIS CHILD.

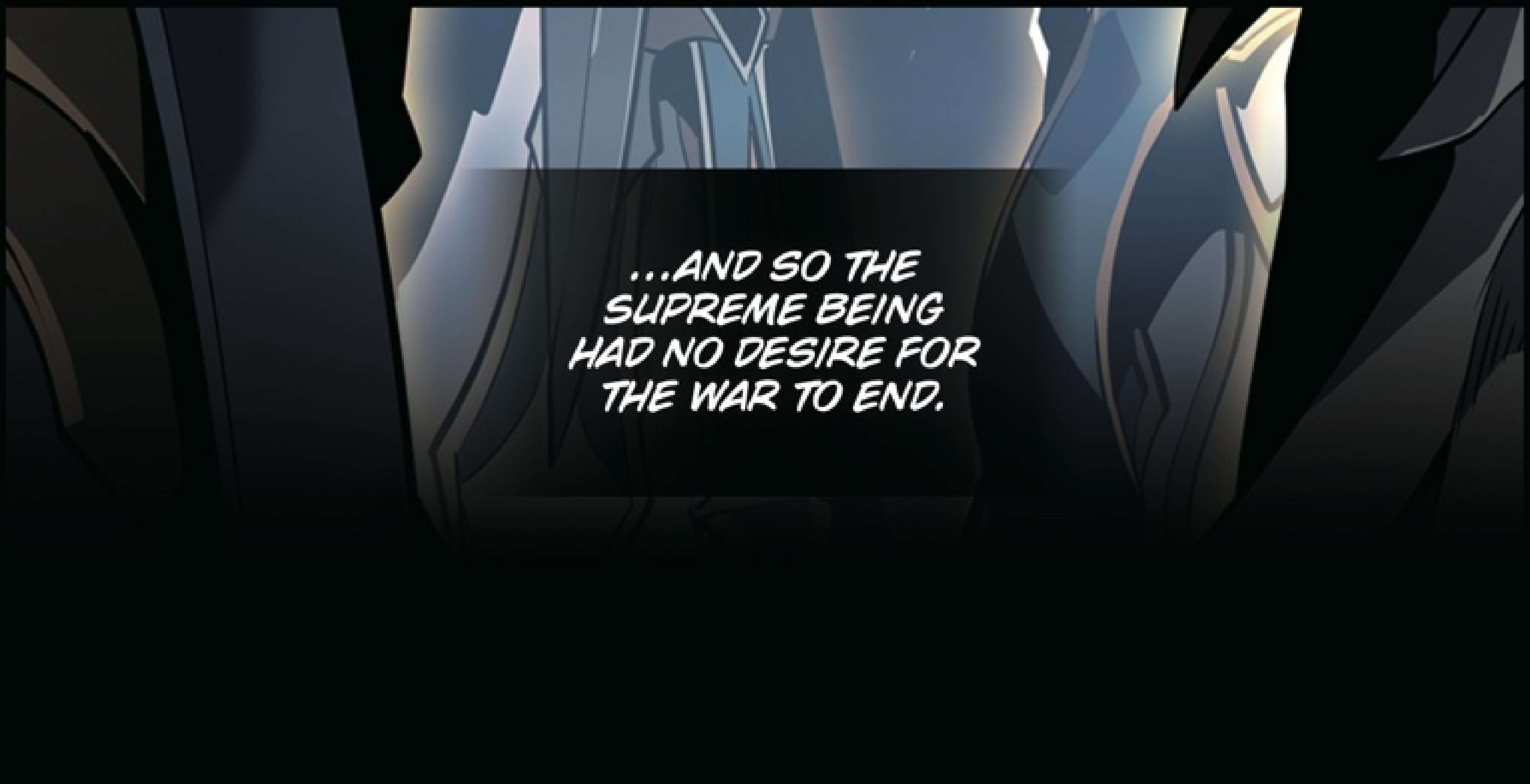
IN THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER WORLD...

...THERE WAS ONLY LIGHT AND DARKNESS.




EVENTUALLY, ONE OF THE ENVOYS— THE BRIGHTEST FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY—WEARY OF THE CEASELESS CONFLICT, APPROACHED THE SUPREME BEING.
O DIVINE RULER, WHY DO YOU NOT HELP YOUR LOYAL SUBJECTS WHO FIGHT IN YOUR NAME?
HAVE YOU NOT HEARD THE CRIES OF THE SOLDIERS WHO HAVE DIED FOR YOU?
PLEASE LEND US THE STRENGTH TO VANQUISH OUR ENEMIES.
WE WILL CUT OFF THEIR HEADS AND OFFER THEM UP TO YOU.
BUT THERE WAS NO RESPONSE FROM THE SUPREME BEING.
AT THAT MOMENT, THE FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY REALIZED—

THE WAR BETWEEN THE ENVOYS AND THE MONARCHS HAD MERELY BEEN A SOURCE OF ONGOING ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE SUPREME BEING...


...AND SO THE SUPREME BEING HAD NO DESIRE FOR THE WAR TO END.

Thou shall worship god.
EVERYONE WORSHIPED THE SUPREME BEING.
Thou shall praise god.
EVERYONE CHEERED FOR THE WAR OF THE SUPREME BEING.
Thou shall prove thy faith.
EVERYONE SWORE THEIR LOYALTY TO THE SUPREME BEING WITH THEIR BLOOD AND LIFE.
EVERYONE FOLLOWED THE COM-MANDMENTS.
Those who fail to obey these commandments shall not be spared.
HOWEVER, THERE WERE OVERWHELMINGLY MORE WHO DIED THAN THOSE WHO OVERCAME DEATH.

THE WAR WOULD NEVER END AS LONG AS THE SUPREME BEING WAS ALIVE.
EVEN FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOWED THE COMMANDMENTS, ALL THAT AWAITED THEM WAS DEATH.
THE ENVOYS DREW THEIR SWORDS TO TRY TO END THE MEANINGLESS WAR.

IT WAS REBELLION.
BEHOLD, ME IN THE PAST.
SHF
I WAS THE ONLY ENVOY OF THE LIGHT WHO OPPOSED THE REBELLION AGAINST THE SUPREME BEING.

MY PITIFUL BAND OF SOLDIERS FELL HELPLESSLY...
...TO THE ALLIED ARMIES OF THE OTHER ENVOYS.
I ASSUMED IT WAS OVER.
THAT IS, UNTIL I OPENED MY EYES IN THE DARKNESS...

...AND REALIZED THAT THE SUPREME BEING HAD CONCEALED A SPECIAL POWER WITHIN ME, HIS MOST FAITHFUL SERVANT.
SLITHER

ARISE.

WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
WHOOSH
PULL

I RETURNED TO THE BATTLEFIELD WITH MY NEW LEGION OF SOLDIERS.
BUT...

...BY THE TIME I ARRIVED...
...IT WAS ALL OVER.

THE OTHER FRAGMENTS OF LUMINOSITY HAD KILLED THE SUPREME BEING AND ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AS THE GODS OF THIS NEW ORDER—THE RULERS.
USING THE POWER OF THE SUPREME BEING, THEY BEGAN TO HUNT DOWN THE MONARCHS.
THE CAPTURE OF REGIA, THE MONARCH OF THE BEGINNING, THE KING OF GIANTS...
...SHIFTED THE BALANCE OF POWER.
THE OTHER MONARCHS REALIZED JUST HOW DIRE THE SITUATION WAS.
IT WAS THEN THAT I OFFERED MY HAND TO THE MONARCHS.
THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO JOIN FORCES WITH ME TO COUNTER OUR COMMON ENEMY, THE RULERS.

AT THAT POINT I WAS NEITHER A FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY NOR AN ENVOY...
...AND I CONTINUED TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE NINE MONARCHS AS THE SHADOW MONARCH.
TIME WAS ON MY SIDE. THE CORPSES AND SOULS LEFT ON THE BATTLEFIELD BECAME MY SOLDIERS.

AS THE SHADOW ARMY BECAME AS POWERFUL AS THE DESTRUCTIVE ARMY LED BY THE KING OF WILD DRAGONS...
...THE RULERS WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES WHO CAME TO FEAR ME.
IN THE END, TWO MONARCHS STABBED ME IN THE BACK.

MY SHADOW ARMY WAS ALMOST ANNIHILATED.
WITH GREAT POWER CAME BETRAYAL.

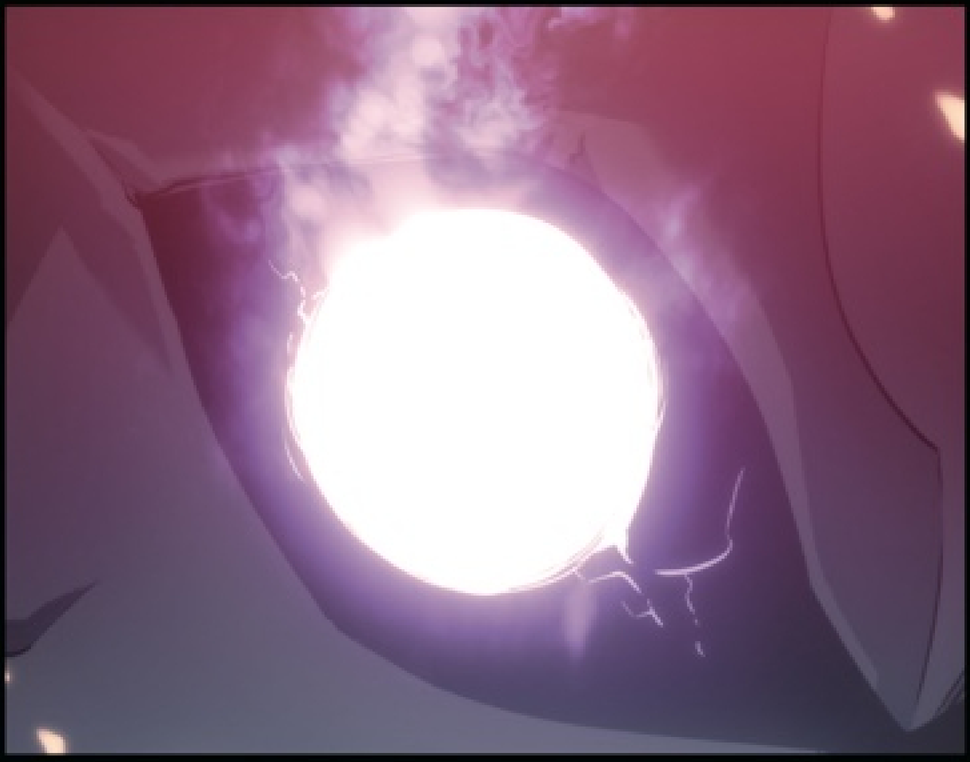
THE FANG MONARCH, THE KING OF BEASTS, ABANDONED HIS OWN SOLDIERS AND RAN...
SHA
TTER
...LEAVING THE MONARCH OF WHITE LIGHTNING—THE KING OF DEMONS—TO PAY THE PRICE.
AND...
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

SWING
WHOOSH
FLAP
FLAP

THUD
PLEASE FORGIVE US...
...O GREATEST FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY.
WE NO LONGER HAVE A REASON TO FIGHT.
IF THEY'D WANTED TO, THEY COULD HAVE SENT ME TO THE VOID...
...BUT THEY WISHED TO RECONCILE INSTEAD.
AS THEY USED TO BE MY COMRADES, BORN FROM THE SAME LIGHT...
...IT WAS THEIR SHOW OF RESPECT FOR LEADING THE ENVOYS' ARMIES ON THE FRONT LINES AGAINST THAT OF THE MONARCHS.

HOW DARE YOU SAY WE HAVE NO REASON?!
DID YOU NOT BETRAY MY MASTER WITH YOUR SWORDS AND SPEARS?

HE WAS OUR MASTER AS WELL.

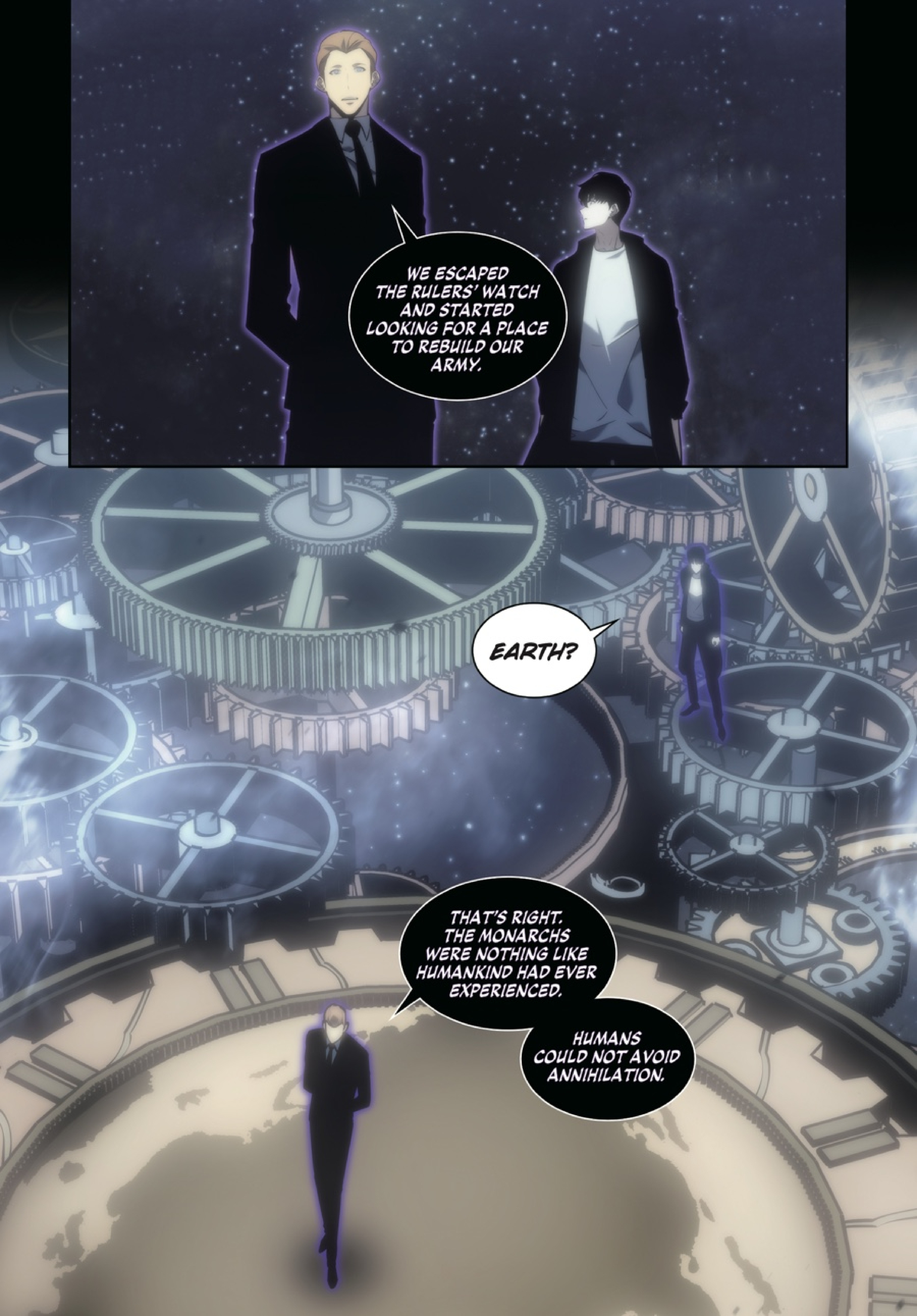


GRAB

WHICH MAKES YOUR SIN ALL THE MORE ABOMINABLE!
YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE...
...HOW WE FELT ABOUT TAKING UP ARMS AGAINST OUR MASTER, DON'T YOU?
WE SIMPLY WISHED TO END THIS WAR.
PIERCE MY HEART WITH YOUR SPEARS! THAT WILL BRING THE END YOU SPEAK OF!
YOU WILL BE THE VICTORS OF THE WAR!!
PLEASE, WON'T YOU FORGIVE US?
KILL ME! DO IT NOW!

PLEASE FORGIVE US...
...O GREATEST FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

FSHH
I WAS CONFUSED.
I HAD NO ANSWER FOR THEM.
I DECIDED TO DELAY MY REVENGE.
SINCE I HAD IMPRISONED THE WHITE LIGHTNING MONARCH WITHIN MY DOMAIN...
...I INTENDED TO TAKE OVER THE FANG MONARCH'S ARMY AFTER MY RECOVERY.
HOWEVER, DURING MY ABSENCE, THE MONARCHS LOST TO THE RULERS, CRIPPLED AS THEY WERE DUE TO THE DAMAGE THEY HAD SUSTAINED EARLIER.
WHEN I APPEARED BEFORE THE MONARCHS WHO WERE HIDING IN THE GAPS BETWEEN DIMENSIONS...
...THE DRAGON KING WOULD NOT ALLOW ME TO FIGHT THE FANG MONARCH BECAUSE HE KNEW IT WAS TIME TO REPLENISH OUR ARMIES.
THE DRAGON KING WELCOMED ME BACK INTO THEIR FOLD.


WE ESCAPED THE RULERS' WATCH AND STARTED LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO REBUILD OUR ARMY.
EARTH?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE MONARCHS WERE NOTHING LIKE HUMANKIND HAD EVER EXPERIENCED.
HUMANS COULD NOT AVOID ANNIHILATION.

THE CITY ENGULFED IN FLAMES.
I'VE SEEN IT.
THE DEMON'S CASTLE.
IS THIS THE FUTURE?
NO, IT IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF THE MONARCHS' PURPOSE WAS TO DESTROY...
...THEN THE PURPOSE OF THE RULERS WAS TO PROTECT.
THE RULERS BELATEDLY CAUGHT WIND OF THE MONARCHS' MOVEMENTS AND SENT IN THEIR SOLDIERS...
...BUT BY THAT TIME, IT WAS ALL OVER.
THE RULERS WERE INFURIATED TO SEE THE MONARCHS AND THEIR ARMIES ELUDE THEM AND DESTROY ANOTHER WORLD.

TO RIGHT THIS WRONG, THE RULERS EMPLOYED A FORBIDDEN TOOL.
THE CUP OF REINCARNATION.
THE CUP WAS AN INCREDIBLE ARTIFACT THAT COULD REVERSE TIME TEN YEARS.
THE RULERS HAD DONE THEIR BEST TO PROTECT EARTH, BUT IT WAS TOO WEAK TO ENDURE A WAR BETWEEN THEM AND THE MONARCHS.
EARTH DID NOT CONTAIN THE MAGIC POWER IT NEEDED TO SURVIVE SUCH A STRUGGLE.
NO MATTER WHO WON, WHETHER IT BE THE RULERS OR MONARCHS...THE PLANET WAS DOOMED.
AND SO THE RULERS CAME TO A DECISION.
IF THEY COULDN'T SAVE EVERYONE, THEY WOULD FIND A WAY TO AT LEAST SAVE ENOUGH OF THIS WORLD TO ALLOW IT TO CONTINUE ON.

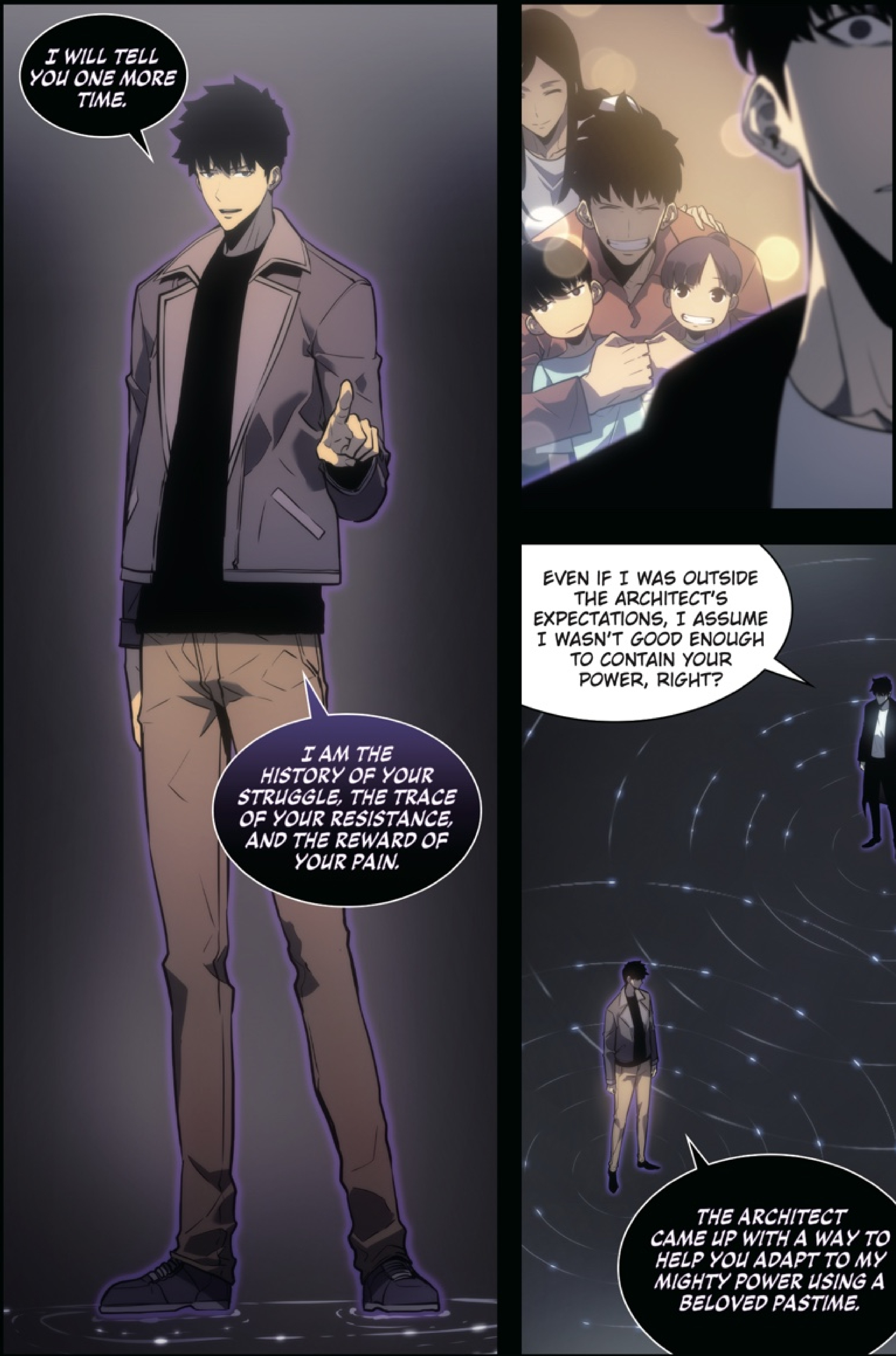
SO YOU MEAN THE ORIGIN OF THE HUNTERS WAS...
THEY WERE TRYING TO CREATE HUMANS CAPABLE OF SURVIVING THE CLASH BETWEEN RULERS AND MONARCHS.
THE RULERS MEANT TO PROTECT YOU IN THIS WAY.
ONLY THE HUNTERS WOULD SURVIVE IN THIS NEW WORLD...
WOULD SOCIETY FUNCTION NORMALLY IF WE KNEW THAT EVERYONE SAVE AN EXTREMELY SMALL, EXCLUSIVE GROUP...
...WAS DOOMED TO DIE?
SO THIS WORLD HAS BEEN DESTROYED REPEATEDLY.
THAT IS RIGHT. AND EVEN IF THEY CAN'T CHANGE THE OUTCOME...

...HIGHER BEINGS LIKE RULERS AND MONARCHS ARE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE WHEN TIME IS ALTERED BY THE CUP OF REINCARNATION.
AS THE RULERS CORRECTED THEIR MISTAKES...
...THE MONARCHS ALTERED THEIR PLANS.
...THIS WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THE FORBIDDEN TOOL NO LONGER FUNCTIONED.
HANG ON... THE CUP OF REINCARNATION HAS LIMITATIONS?
NO POWER LASTS FOREVER.
THEY ALL HAVE THEIR LIMITS, JUST AS THE SUPREME BEING MET HIS END...
...AT THE HAND OF HIS OWN CREATIONS.
HOW WERE THE CREATED ABLE TO KILL THEIR CREATOR?
IT IS NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM YOUR KIND MEETING YOUR END BY YOUR OWN INVENTIONS.
WE WERE GIVEN LIFE IN ORDER TO FIGHT, AND WE WERE IMBUED WITH POWER ENOUGH TO KILL OUR OWN MASTER.

OBSERVING THE RULERS' METHODS, THE MONARCHS WERE STRUCK WITH AN IDEA.
MUCH AS THE RULERS HAD LOANED THEIR POWER TO HUMANS...
...ALLOWING THEM TO SPREAD MAGIC POWER OVER THE PLANET BY KILLING MAGIC BEASTS...
...THE MONARCHS ADOPTED HUMAN FORMS, AND ONCE THEY'D ACCLIMATED TO EARTH...
...THEY BROUGHT OVER THEIR ARMIES EARLIER THAN THE RULERS ANTICIPATED.

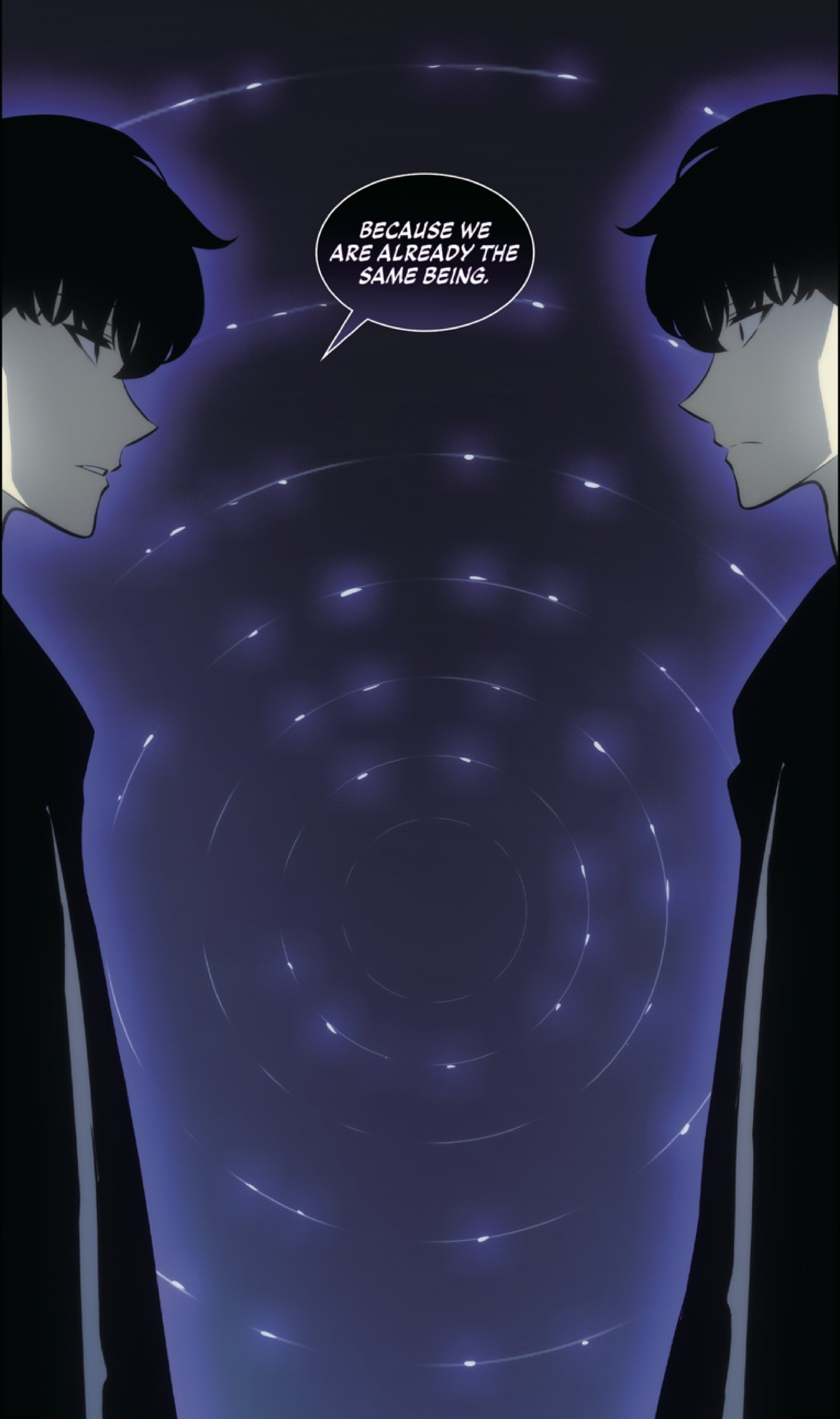
THE MONARCHS' PLAN WAS TO MAKE EARTH ITSELF INTO A HUGE TRAP...
...BY USING THE MAGIC POWER THE RULERS HAD RELEASED ON THE PLANET.
THAT WAY, THEY COULD DEVOUR THE RULERS' ARMIES WHEN THEY CAME TO HELP HUMANKIND...
THAT IS CORRECT.
THE MONARCHS NEEDED HUMAN VESSELS WHO COULD HANDLE THEIR GREAT POWER IN ORDER TO COME TO THIS WORLD.
HOWEVER, THE MONARCH OF DESTRUCTION'S AND MY POWERS WERE TOO GREAT, AND WE WERE UNABLE TO FIND HUMANS CAPABLE OF WITHSTANDING THEM.
IT WAS THEN THAT AN UNPARALLELED MAGE WHO WORKED FOR THE MONARCH OF TRANSFORMATION...
...OFFERED TO FIND THE RIGHT HUMAN FOR ME.
THAT MAGE, KNOWN AS THE ARCHITECT, SAID HE'D HELP ME IN THIS ENDEAVOR IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMORTALITY.

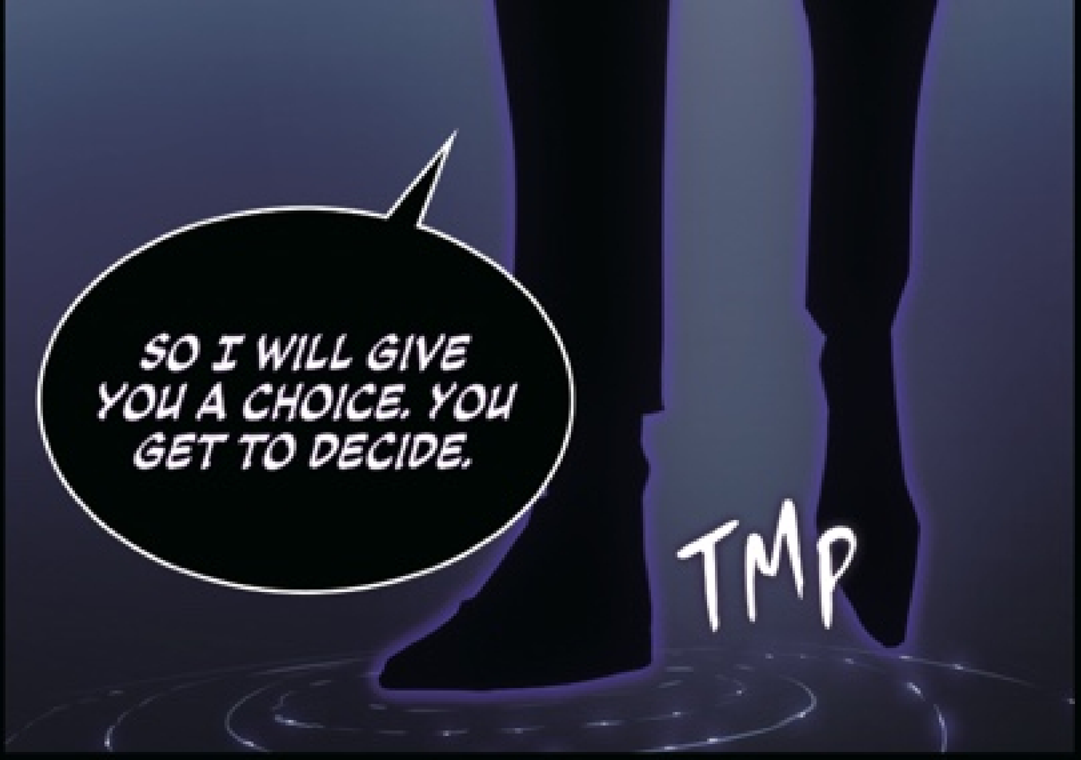
UNFORTUNATELY, NO HUMAN COULD BE FOUND ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE POWER OF DEATH.
THE ARCHITECT DESIGNED A SYSTEM TO SEARCH FOR SOMEONE—ONE HUMAN WAS HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO MAGIC POWER...
...ANOTHER HUMAN HAD INCREDIBLE PHYSICAL STRENGTH... STILL ANOTHER HAD EXTRAORDINARY INTELLIGENCE...
IT WASN'T EASY TO FIND THE RIGHT HUMAN FOR ME.
THEN ONE CAUGHT MY EYE...
ONE OUTSIDE THE ARCHITECT'S DESIGN, FORMULA, AND PREDICTION.
HE WAS WEAK AND ALWAYS SO CLOSE TO DYING...
...BUT SO DESPERATELY MANAGED TO ESCAPE—
IT WAS YOU.
I CHOSE YOU AGAINST THE ARCHITECT'S WISHES.
SHP


I WILL TELL YOU ONE MORE TIME.
I AM THE HISTORY OF YOUR STRUGGLE, THE TRACE OF YOUR RESISTANCE, AND THE REWARD OF YOUR PAIN.
EVEN IF I WAS OUTSIDE THE ARCHITECT'S EXPECTATIONS, I ASSUME I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO CONTAIN YOUR POWER, RIGHT?
THE ARCHITECT CAME UP WITH A WAY TO HELP YOU ADAPT TO MY MIGHTY POWER USING A BELOVED PASTIME.

A BELOVED PASTIME— VIDEO GAMES. THE ARCHITECT BORROWED MY POWER TO CREATE THE SYSTEM, WHICH GRADUALLY TRANSFORMED YOUR BODY TO SUIT MY NEEDS.
DING!
DING!
DING!
THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE SYSTEM FEELS LIKE A VIDEO GAME UI.
SHADOW MONARCH, YOU!
DO YOU THINK THE OTHER
BUT YOU BETRAYED THE ARCHITECT, RIGHT?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
......

THE RULERS' APOLOGY AND THE MONARCHS' BETRAYAL.
I KEPT DELAYING WHICH SIDE I WOULD CHOOSE.
IN THE END, I MADE MY DECISION.
BESIDES...
...I MERELY WANTED TO.
I SUPPOSE I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE YOU...
...BECAUSE I ENJOYED OUR TIME TOGETHER.
FSHHH
I HAVE BECOME YOU, AND YOU HAVE BECOME ME.
IT MATTERS NOT WHICH OF US CONTROLS YOUR BODY.


BECAUSE WE ARE ALREADY THE SAME BEING.


SO I WILL GIVE YOU A CHOICE. YOU GET TO DECIDE.
TMP

IF NOT, YOU WILL HAVE TO GO BACK TO REALITY AND FIGHT.

YOU CAN ENJOY ETERNAL REST...
...WITHIN THE BEAUTIFUL DREAM YOU'VE MADE IN THIS DOMAIN OF DEATH.
RUSTLE

YOU SAID YOU MADE A DECISION.
WHEN YOU GAVE UP ON FIGHTING THE RULERS...
...WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY TO ANOTHER WORLD WITH THE OTHER MONARCHS?

BECAUSE THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR ME.
MY ANSWER IS THE SAME AS YOURS.
THIS ISN'T WHERE I BELONG.

SMILE

I WON'T SEE YOU AGAIN, WILL I?
I SHALL RETURN TO ETERNAL REST. AND AS THE SHADOW MONARCH, YOU SHALL BE IMMORTAL.
WE'LL LIKELY NEVER CROSS PATHS AGAIN.
WITH YOUR DEATH, YOUR POWER IS COMPLETE. THE WAY BACK IS—
I KNOW THE WAY.
BECAUSE I AM YOU.

ARISE.

The delete code for the Player development system has been entered.

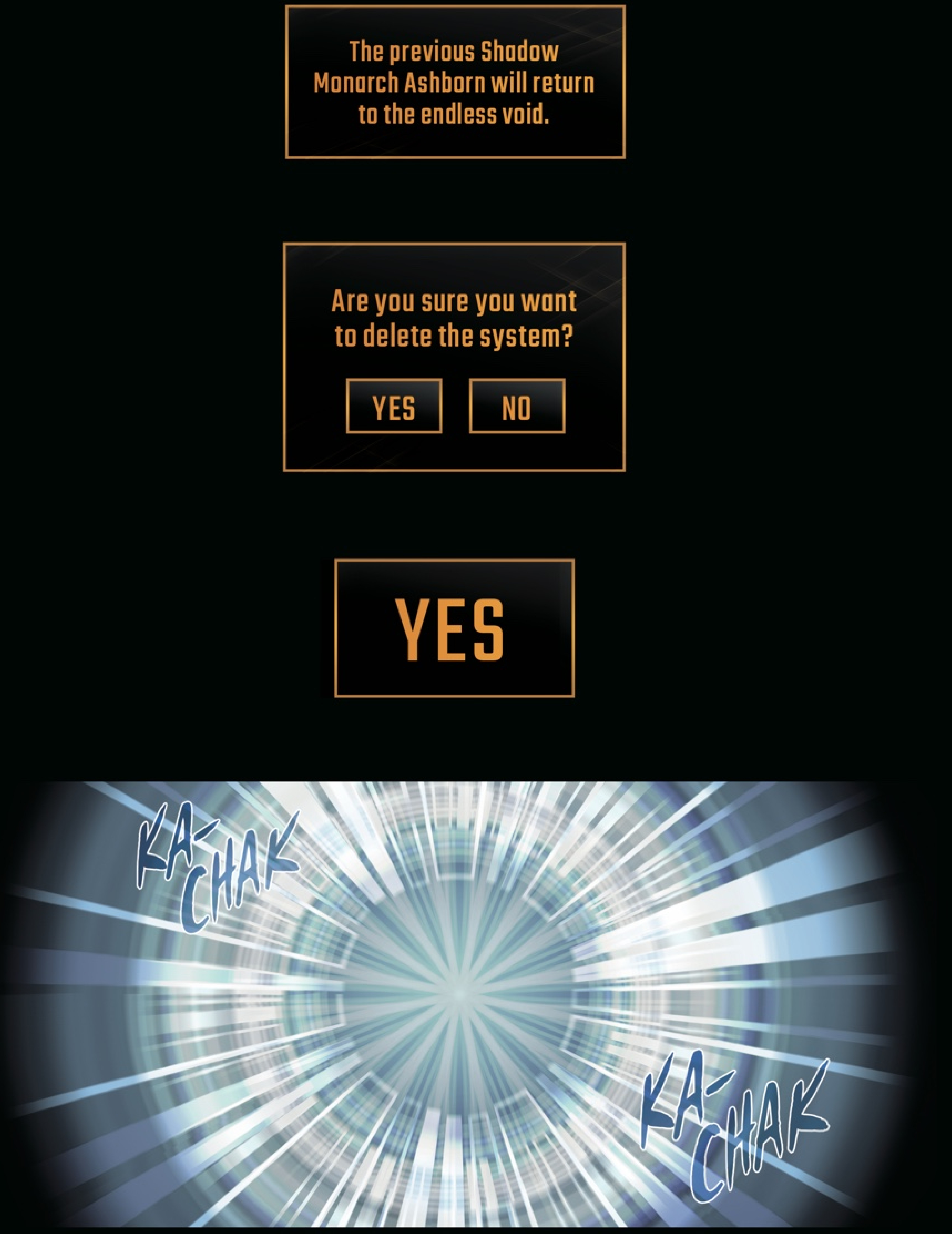
The system will be deleted.

The restrictions on the Player's power have been removed.

All shadow soldiers awarded authority by the Monarch as leaders of the shadow army will have their powers restored.

Marshal Igris will have his powers restored.

Marshal Beru will have his powers increased greatly.


The previous Shadow Monarch Ashborn will return to the endless void.
Are you sure you want to delete the system?
YES
NO
YES
KA-CHAK
KA-CHAK

WHOOM
FLASH

RRRRUMBLE
A FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY...!
THE HUMAN YOU ARE PROTECTING IS THE HARBINGER OF TRAGEDY!
DO YOU MEAN TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF ALL THINGS BY YOUR OWN HANDS?
ARE YOU RISKING YOUR LIFE TO HELP THE SHADOW MONARCH'S RESURRECTION?!
WHAT IN BLAZES DO THE RULERS THINK THEY'RE DOING...?

TIME IS RUNNING OUT.
GRIP
SHF

LEAP
WHOOSH

WHOOSH
SLAM
SHING
KLANG
KLANG

THIS BASTARD...
SHWP
HE READS THE MOVEMENTS OF MY SPEAR IN ADVANCE AND PROCEEDS ACCORDINGLY.
SHWP

HE MOVES LIKE A WARRIOR WHO HAS SEEN HIS FAIR SHARE OF BATTLES.
SCRAPE
HE EVADES THE FROST MONARCH'S SPEAR WITH PERFECT TIMING...
HUP!
...AND BLOCKS MY ATTACKS AS WELL.
POW

WHAM
STAB
GRAAAAH!

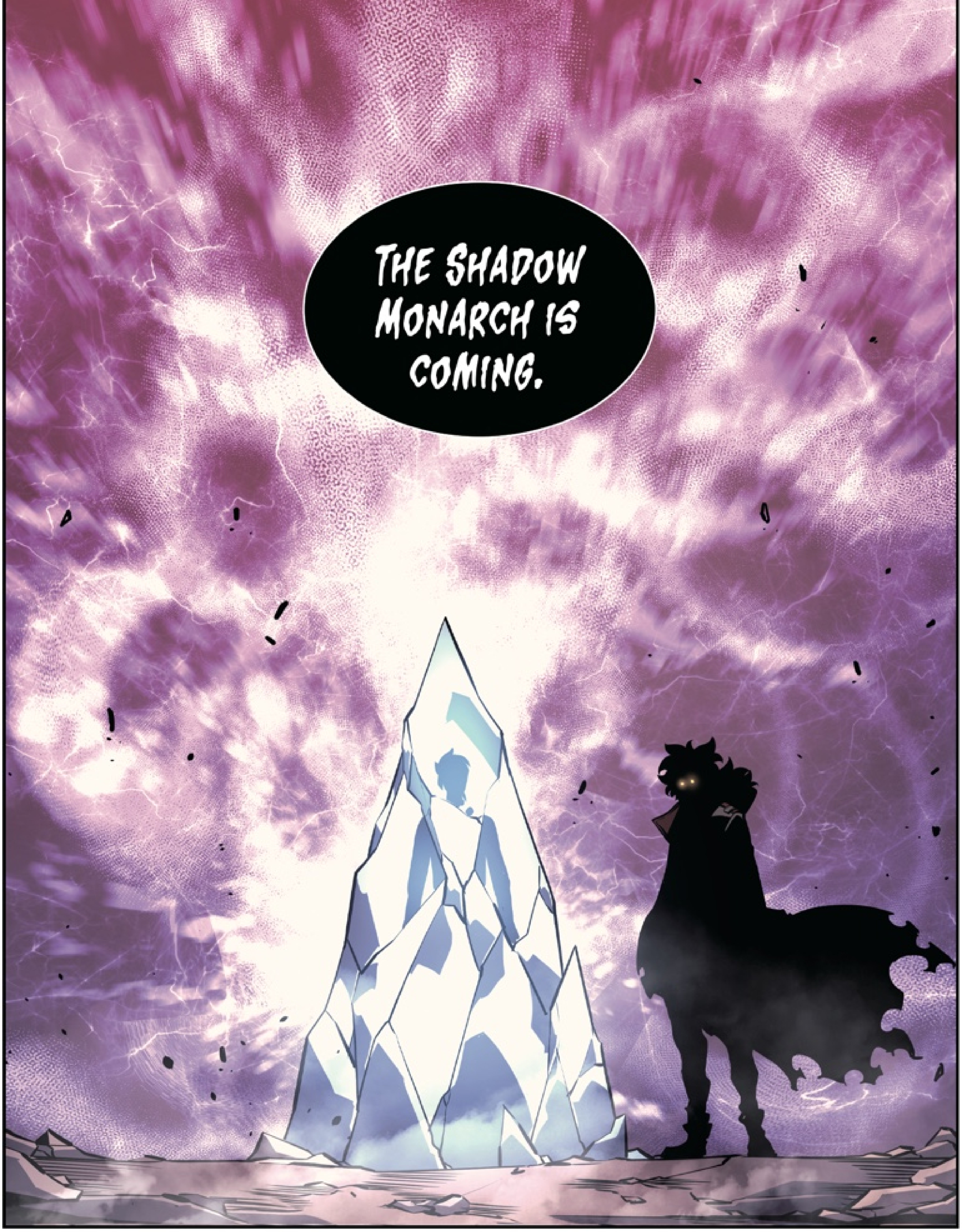
SHUNK

WHOOOOOM

I'LL RIP YOU A—
SHVICK

THIS FEELING IS...!
SHUDDER
THUD
THD
LEAP

WHISH
YOUR ATTACKS WILL FAIL THIS TIME.
LET'S STRIKE HIM ONE MO—
I SHALL RETREAT!!
!
YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY AFTER WE'VE COME THIS FAR? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
CAN YOU NOT FEEL IT? THE MANA IN THE AIR IS CRYING OUT.


THE SHADOW MONARCH IS COMING.

I AM LEAVING.

Y-YOU PROMISED TO HELP ME BATTLE THE SHADOW MONARCH!
I PROMISED TO FIGHT THE SHADOW MONARCH IN A HUMAN STATE.
SLASH
I DID NOT AGREE TO BATTLE HIS TRUE FORM. I HAVE NO REASON TO STAY.
SO YOU RUN AWAY WITH YOUR TAIL BETWEEN YOUR LEGS? AND YOU CALL YOURSELF THE KING OF BEASTS?!
FROST MONARCH.
YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND BECAUSE YOU HAVE NEVER FACED THE TRUE POWER OF THE SHADOW MONARCH.
SHWP
I WISH YOU LUCK.

FOOL.
FLASH

TASTE THE TERROR OF FROST, PUNY HUMAN!
WHISH

SMASH
FACE MY TRUE POWER!

KRA-KOOOM
BE CAREFUL NOT TO BE SWEPT AWAY!
RETREAT! EVERYONE, LEAVE YOUR POSITION!
WHOOSH

FWOOM
KLANG
KLANG
KA-CLANG
KLANG
KLANG KLANG
THE GALL OF THIS MERE HUMAN!
FLASH

YOU SHALL BE IMPRISONED IN THE ETERNAL FROST ALONG WITH THE SHADOW MONARCH.
IS HE TRYING TO DESTROY THE WHOLE CITY?
SHK

SHHK
SHAAA
FWOOM

ZOOM
WHOOSH
BAM
KRA-KOOM

SHATTER
TMP
FROST MONARCH.
FLUTTER

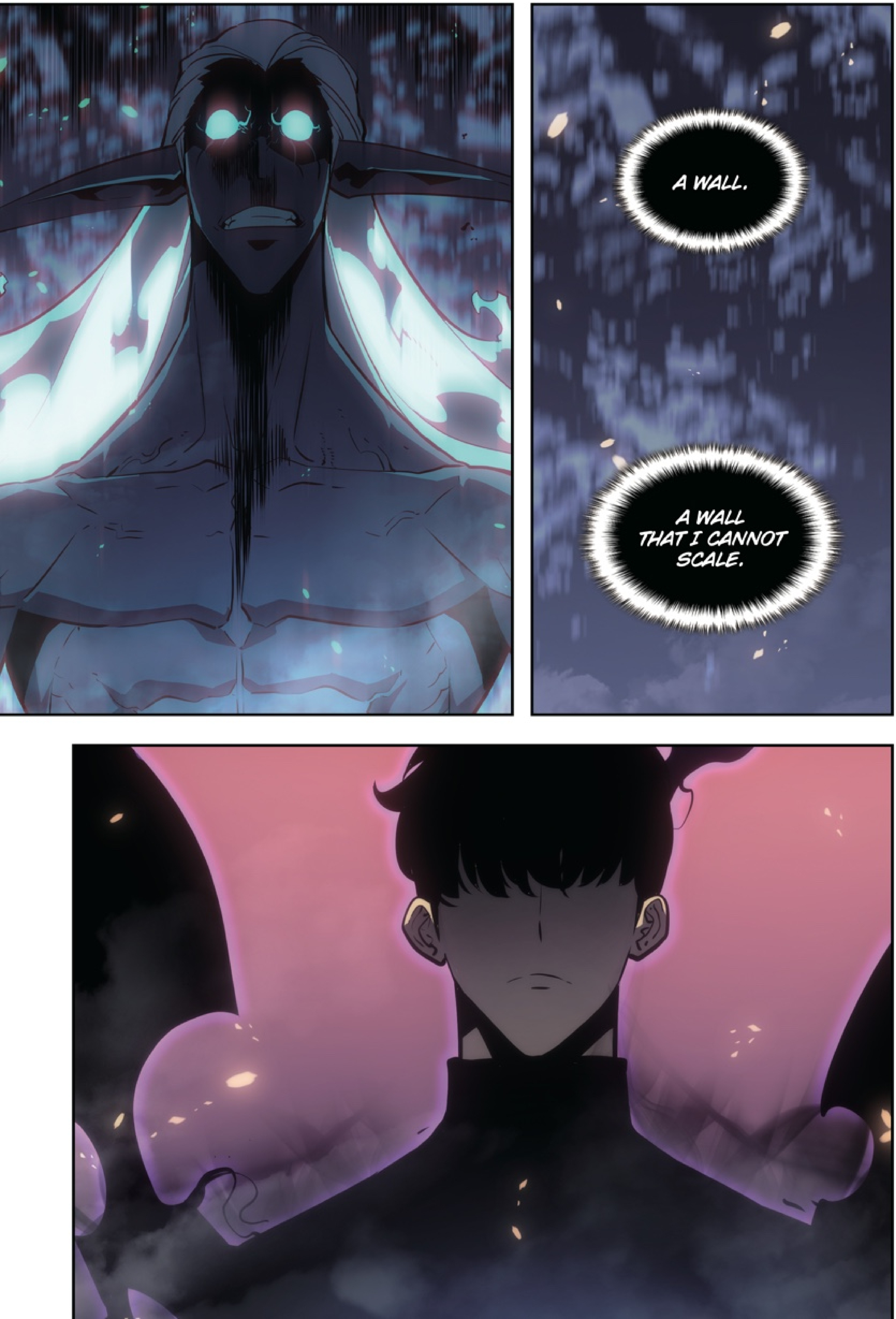
YOU SHALL NOT CALL YOURSELF A MONARCH WITH THAT PITIFUL AMOUNT OF POWER.

THEY BROKE FREE FROM MY SPELL?
THE BASTARD'S ARMY HAS MARSHALS AGAIN?

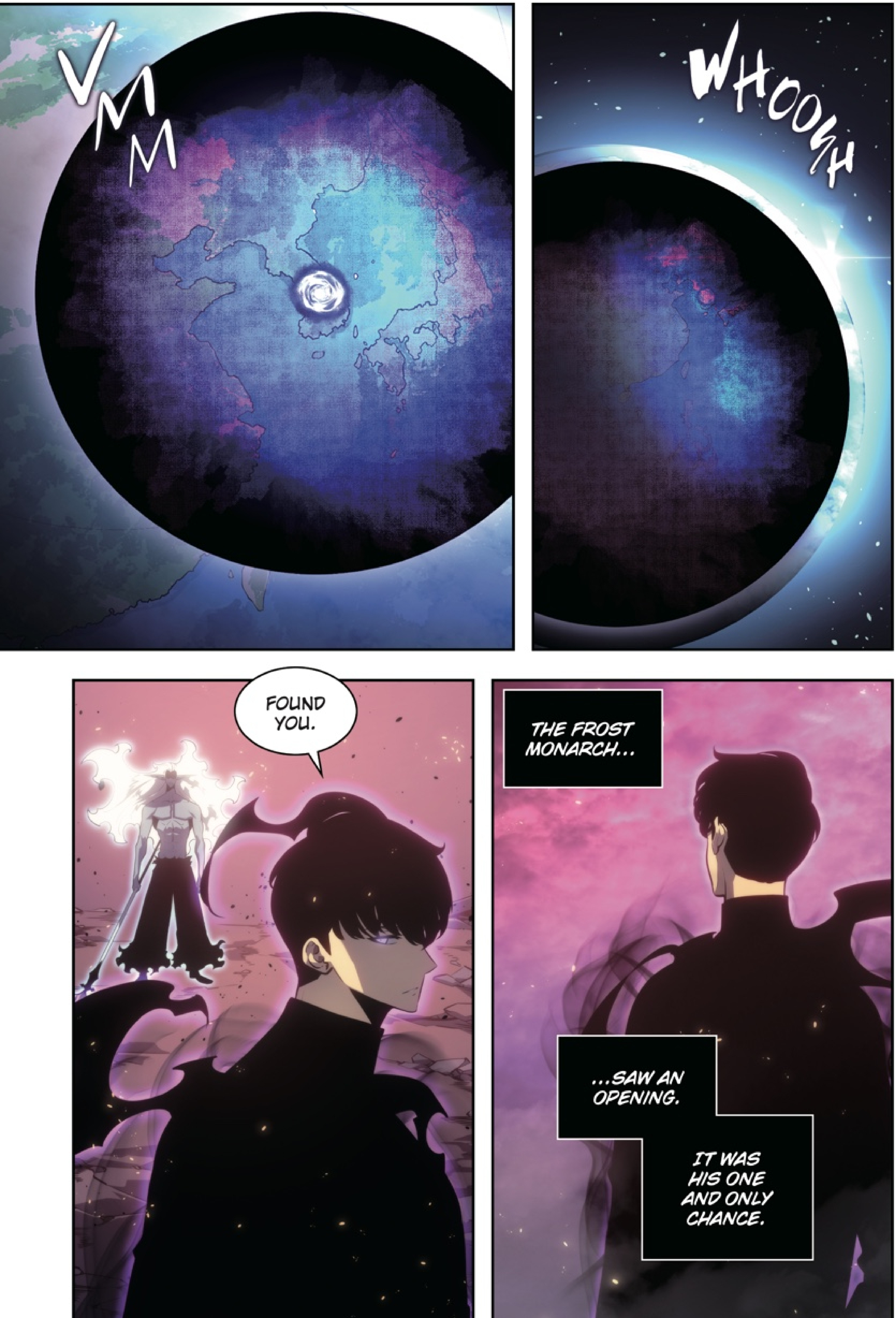
THIS MEANS...!

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT PROPHECY...
KRIK
KRIIIK
...CAN PROVE TO BE UNRELIABLE.
CLACK
CLATTER
DID THE BEAST RUN AWAY?
I DID NOT ALLOW THIS...

I DID NOT ALLOW HIM TO LEAVE.


A WALL.
A WALL THAT I CANNOT SCALE.

THE GAP BETWEEN HIS POWER AND MINE IS TOO GREAT!
VMM


VMM
WHOOSH
FOUND YOU.
THE FROST MONARCH...
...SAW AN OPENING.
IT WAS HIS ONE AND ONLY CHANCE.

DESPITE THE GAP IN OUR POWER, HE'S LET HIS GUARD DOWN IN FRONT OF HIS OPPONENT.
IF I LET THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS, ALL THAT AWAITS ME WILL BE DEATH.
FWOOM

WH
I MUST FINISH HIM WITH ONE STRIKE.
OOOOO

WHOOSH

FWISH

KA-BOOOOOM

H-HOW?
THIS IS THE POWER OF THE SHADOW MONARCH...

...ALSO KNOWN AS THE GREATEST FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY AND ONE OF THE TWO MIGHTIEST KINGS!

YOU'LL GO LAST.
WAIT HERE WHILE I GO AFTER THAT BEAST.

SHATTER
IT FEELS LIKE A NOOSE IS TIGHTENING AROUND MY NECK.
FSHHH

ARGUING WITH THE FROST MONARCH TOOK TOO MUCH TIME.
THUD
I'LL HAVE TO HUNKER DOWN UNTIL THE DRAGON KING ARRIVES...
FLICKER
THIS ENERGY IS... COULD IT BE?!

I CAN SMELL DEATH.

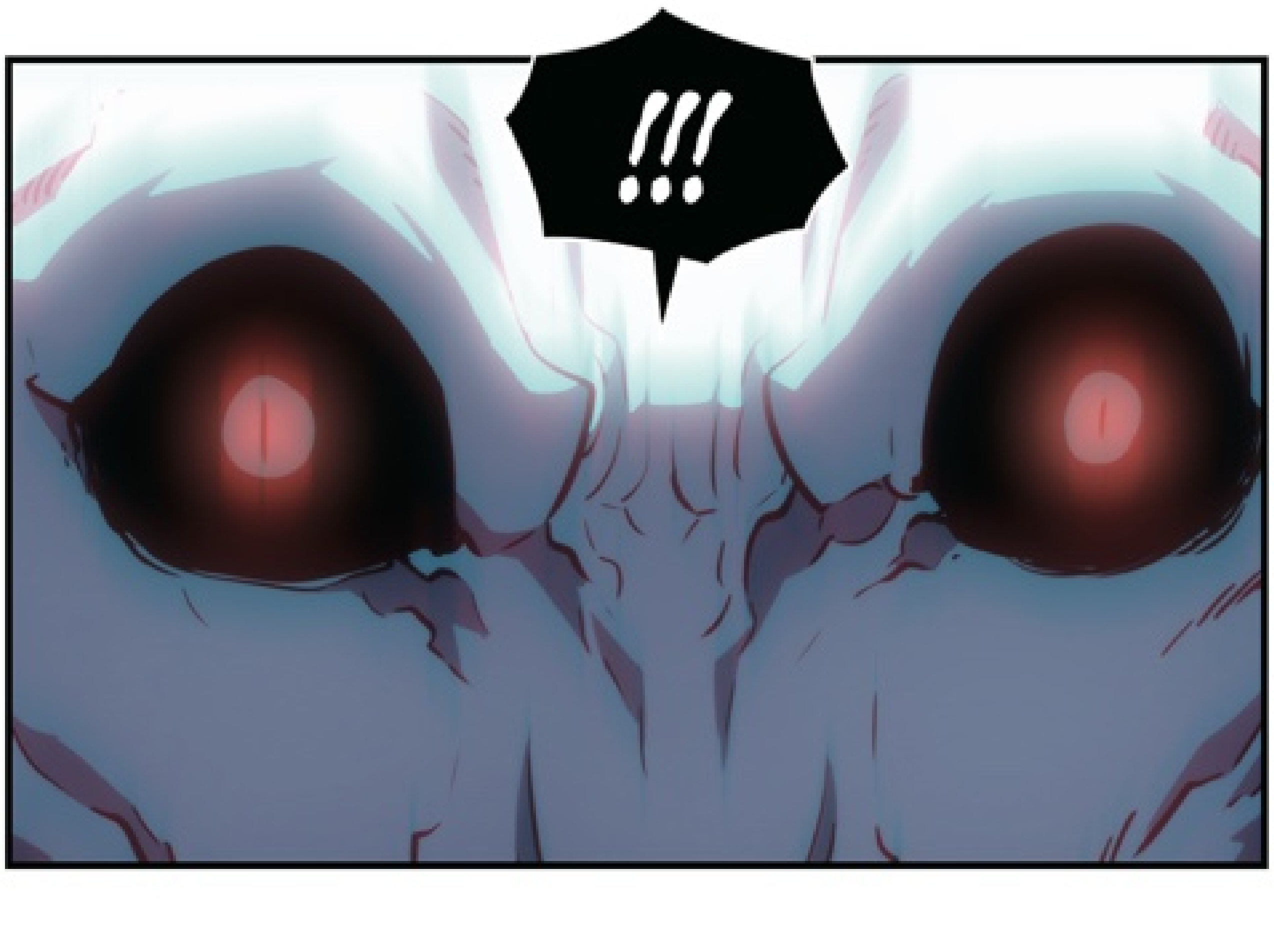
I CANNOT FIGHT...
RUSTLE
...NOR FLEE...

THE OVERWHELMING GAP BETWEEN HIS POWER AND MINE.

FEAR COMING OVER ME.
MY BODY BENDING TO SUBMIT.
MY BEASTLY INSTINCTS WARNING ME.
O SHADOW MONARCH, I, THE KING OF BEASTS, DO NOT WISH TO FIGHT YOU.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY TRANSGRESSIONS AND ACCEPT ME AS YOUR ALLY.
THE DRAGON KING WILL SOON DESCEND UPON THIS LAND WITH HIS SOLDIERS.
WHEN THAT TIME COMES, MY ARMY OF BEASTS AND I WILL BE BY YOUR SIDE.
FINE.

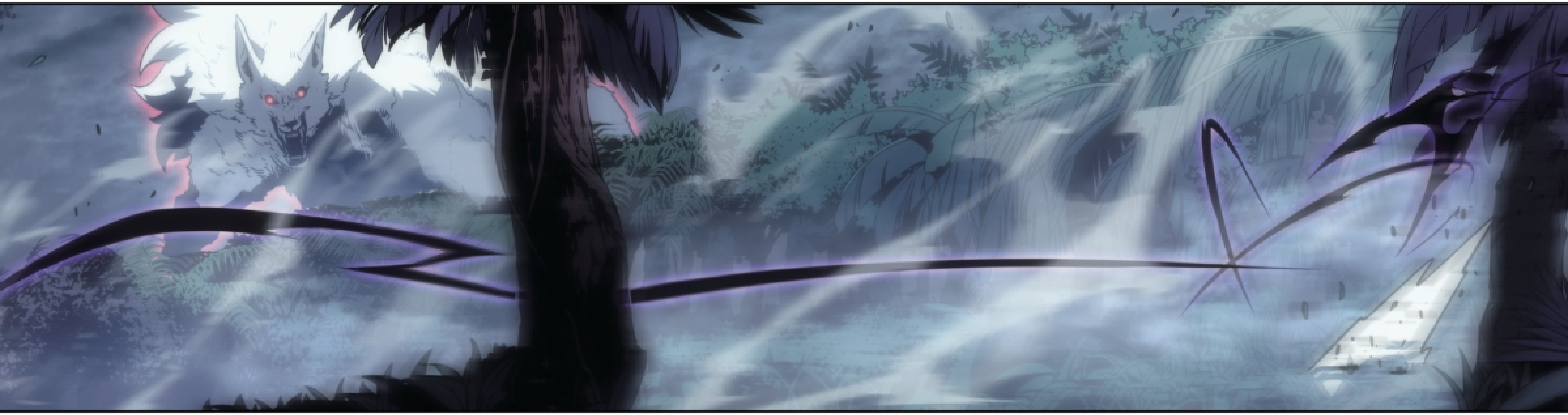
DID HE SAY "FINE"?
WHAT A FOOL!
HE CAN'T BE THE TRUE SHADOW MONARCH.
IF HE WERE, HE WOULDN'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF FORGIVING ME...
...WHEN I'VE NOT ONLY BETRAYED HIM ONCE BEFORE, BUT ALSO ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY THE VESSEL OF HIS REBIRTH.
I HAVE BOUGHT SOME TIME THANKS TO THE HUMAN'S SOFT HEART AND IGNORANCE.
WHEN THE TIME COMES, I WILL RIP YOUR BODY APART WITH MY OWN HANDS AND DEVOUR YOU.
I SWEAR MY LOYALTY TO Y—
FIRST, WE NEED TO SETTLE THE DEBT BETWEEN US.

THESE ARE THE FIVE SPOTS WHERE YOUR CLAWS PENETRATED MY CHEST.
IF YOU CAN WITHSTAND FIVE OF MY ATTACKS, I WILL FORGIVE YOU.


!!!

HOW...
FWOOM

HOW DARE YOU TRICK ME?! ME, THE KING OF BEASTS!
KRA-KOO OM
THIS MAY BE THE END OF THE LINE FOR ME, BUT I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU DOWN WITH ME!
WHISH
GRIP



SPLURT
THAT LEAVES FOUR.
KA-BOOM

VMM
NEVER MIND THAT BASTARD ANT HEALING A RULER'S VESSEL...
THE REMAINING SHADOW IS THE PROBLEM.
SLASH
I HAVE SEEN THAT SOLDIER.
TMP TMP
HE WAS ONE OF THE TWO WINGS OF THE SHADOW ARMY AND CALLED THE DEATH KNIGHT.

IGRIS!
HE CAN USE HIS FULL POWER NOW...? HOW ANNOYING.

THEY WILL KEEP COMING BACK FOR MORE UNTIL THE SHADOW MONARCH RUNS OUT OF MANA.
BUT I'VE LOST TOO MUCH STAMINA FROM UTILIZING MY TRUE FORM. THIS IS BAD!

WHOOOSH
STOP WASTING YOUR TIME.
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN LAST AGAINST ME?
TMP
FLAP
SHWP

FSHHH
THOSE ARE...!
CLATTER
CLATTER

THE FANG MONARCH IS DEAD.
HE KILLED THE FANG MONARCH IN THE FEW MINUTES HE WAS AWAY?!
THE PLAGUE MONARCH, THE FANG MONARCH, AND THE FROST MONARCH.
THEIR DEATHS WILL BE A WARNING TO THE REST.

YOU...!!
KRSHHH
SHK
SHUNK

AAAARGH!
FWOOM
GRAB

SLASH

THE BEAST DIED ON MY FOURTH ATTACK.
HOW MANY CAN YOU TAKE?
KRIK
KRAK
KRIIIK
GYAAAAAH!
SHATTER
CRUMBLE

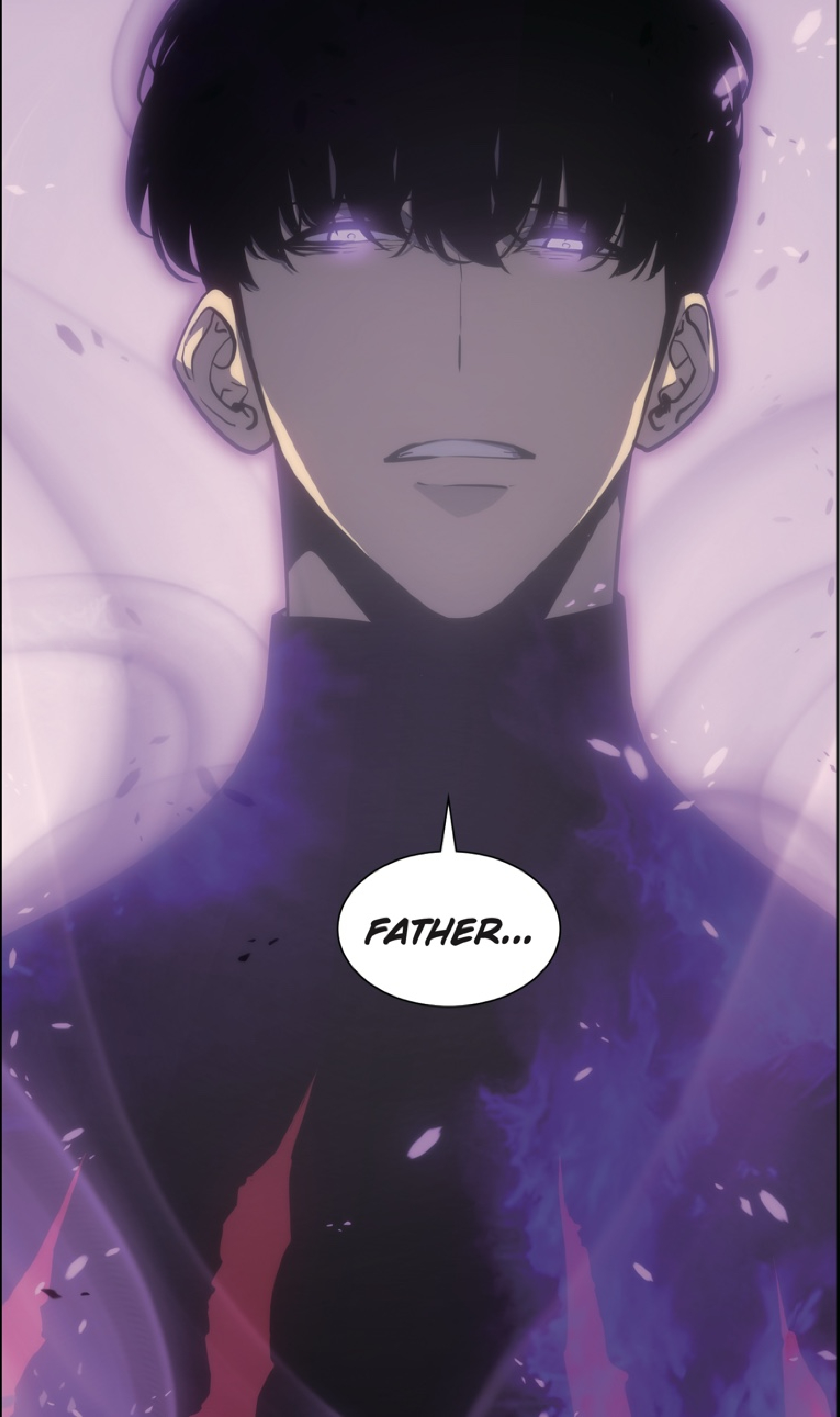
MY KIIIIIING!
WHERE'S THAT MAN FROM EARLIER?

HE DISAPPEARED AT SOME POINT.
KLAK

SLUMP

HAAH...
HAAH...
FSHHH
IS THIS THE CONSEQUENCE OF HOSTING A GOD IN MY HUMAN BODY...?
I DID IT...
THAT IS GOOD ENOUGH.

TWIRL
WERE YOU PLANNING TO LEAVE WITHOUT A WORD AGAIN?
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T KNOW IF YOU LEFT LIKE THAT?


FATHER...

Solo Leveling

CHAPTER 36
The Truth

A GATE...
...FROM WHICH COUNTLESS MAGIC BEASTS EMERGED.
AFTER DEFEATING THE BOSS, HUNTERS HAVE ONE HOUR TO EXIT FROM A GATE. BUT I FAILED TO DO SO, AND THUS...
...I WAS TRAPPED IN THE GAP BETWEEN DIMENSIONS.

THAT'S WHEN THE RULERS APPROACHED ME, LOANING ME THEIR POWER AND ASKING ME TO STOP THE MONARCHS...
...AS WELL AS PREVENT THE REBIRTH OF THE SHADOW MONARCH.
I HAD NO CHOICE SINCE I HAD NO WAY TO ESCAPE...

I RETURNED TO EARTH AS AN AVATAR OF THE RULERS TASKED WITH THIS VITAL MISSION.
HOWEVER...
...I WAS UNABLE TO FULFILL MY DUTY.

GRIT
ALTHOUGH I KNEW THAT YOU HOUSED THE WORST DISASTER TO FACE HUMANKIND...
...I COULD DO NOTHING BUT OBSERVE YOU FROM A DISTANCE.
AS I PUT OFF THE MISSION...
...THE RULERS' OBJECTIVE CHANGED...
...AND THE BRIGHTEST FRAGMENT OF LUMINOSITY GAVE ME A NEW ORDER.
PROTECT THE SHADOW MONARCH.

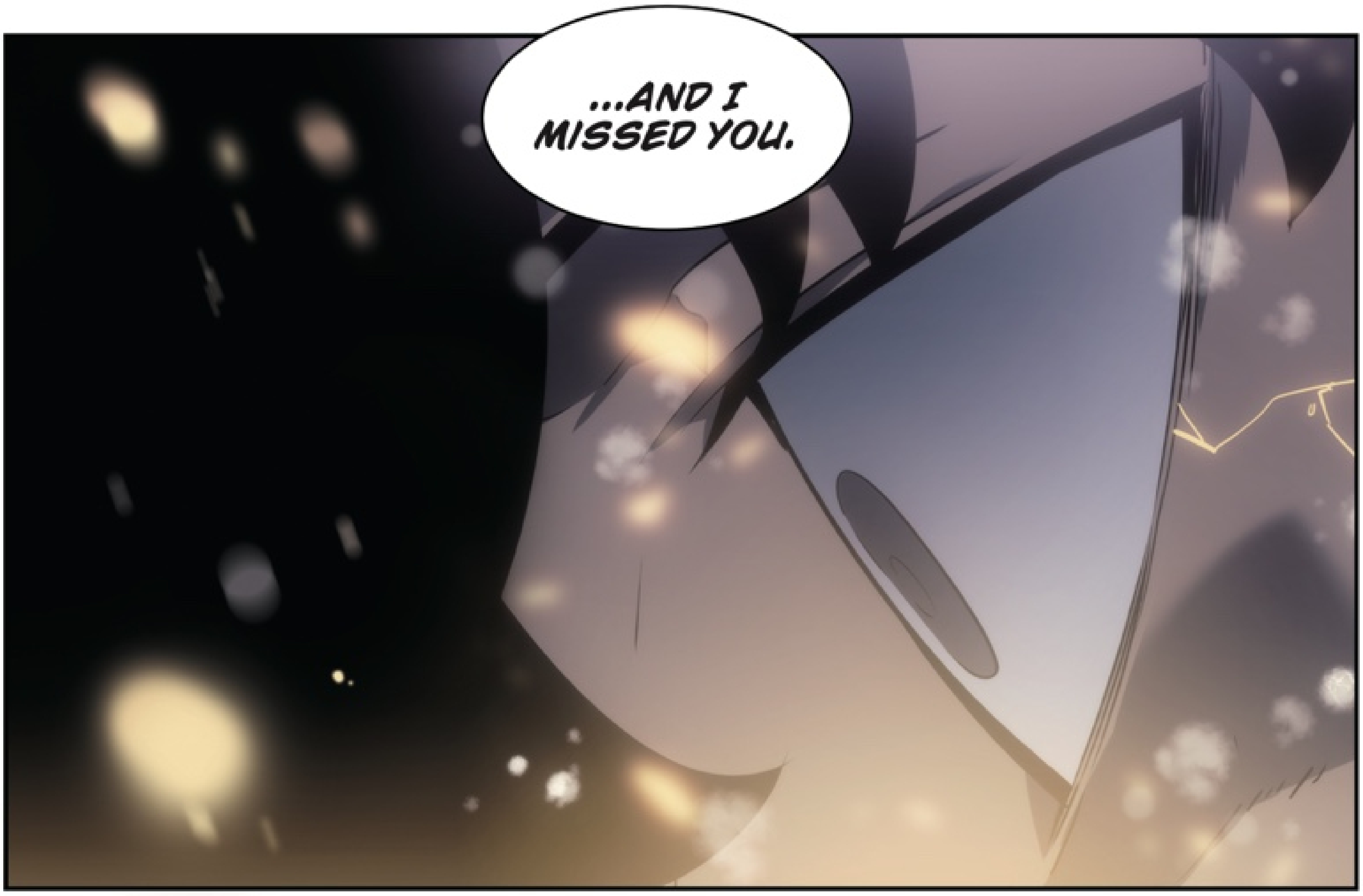
THE RULERS HAD REALIZED THAT THEY NEEDED THE SHADOW MONARCH AT FULL POWER TO THWART THE OTHER MONARCHS' PLANS.
THE DRAGON KING AND HIS ARMY OF DESTRUCTION WOULD ARRIVE BEFORE THE SOLDIERS OF THE SKY...
...AND THE ONLY ONE STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP HIM WAS THE SHADOW MONARCH.
THE RULERS WERE NOT SURE WHETHER THE SHADOW MONARCH WOULD SIDE WITH THE HUMANS, SO IT WAS A BIG GAMBLE ON THEIR PART.
AND NOW, THE ANSWER IS CLEAR.
SO I HELPED YOU.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE ME LIKE THIS...
FATHER...
DID YOU... RESENT ME?

...YES.
SOMETIMES.

I'M SORRY...

WHEN I STARTED WORKING AS A HUNTER, WHEN I FACED MY OWN DEATH, AND WHEN I SAW MOM AND JINAH EVERY TIME I SURVIVED...
...I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU.

I HATED YOU...

...AND I MISSED YOU.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, DAD?

FLINCH
......!
DID YOU NOT WANT TO SEE ME...? TO SEE US?
FSHH
...I-I DID...

I'VE WANTED TO SEE YOU... THIS WHOLE TIME.
DRIP
EVEN IF YOU COULDN'T SEE ME...
...I WAS HAPPY TO WATCH YOU FROM A DISTANCE...
SHF
TMP TMP

YOU GREW UP TO BE SO STRONG.
DID THE RULERS DO THIS TO YOU?
DID THEY ABANDON YOU AFTER USING YOU?
CLENCH

THEY GAVE ME A CHOICE.
I CHOSE TO PROTECT YOU, AND THAT WAS THE CORRECT CHOICE.
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU MORE...
I'D...
...LIKE TO STAY WITH YOU A WHILE LONGER, BUT...
FSHH

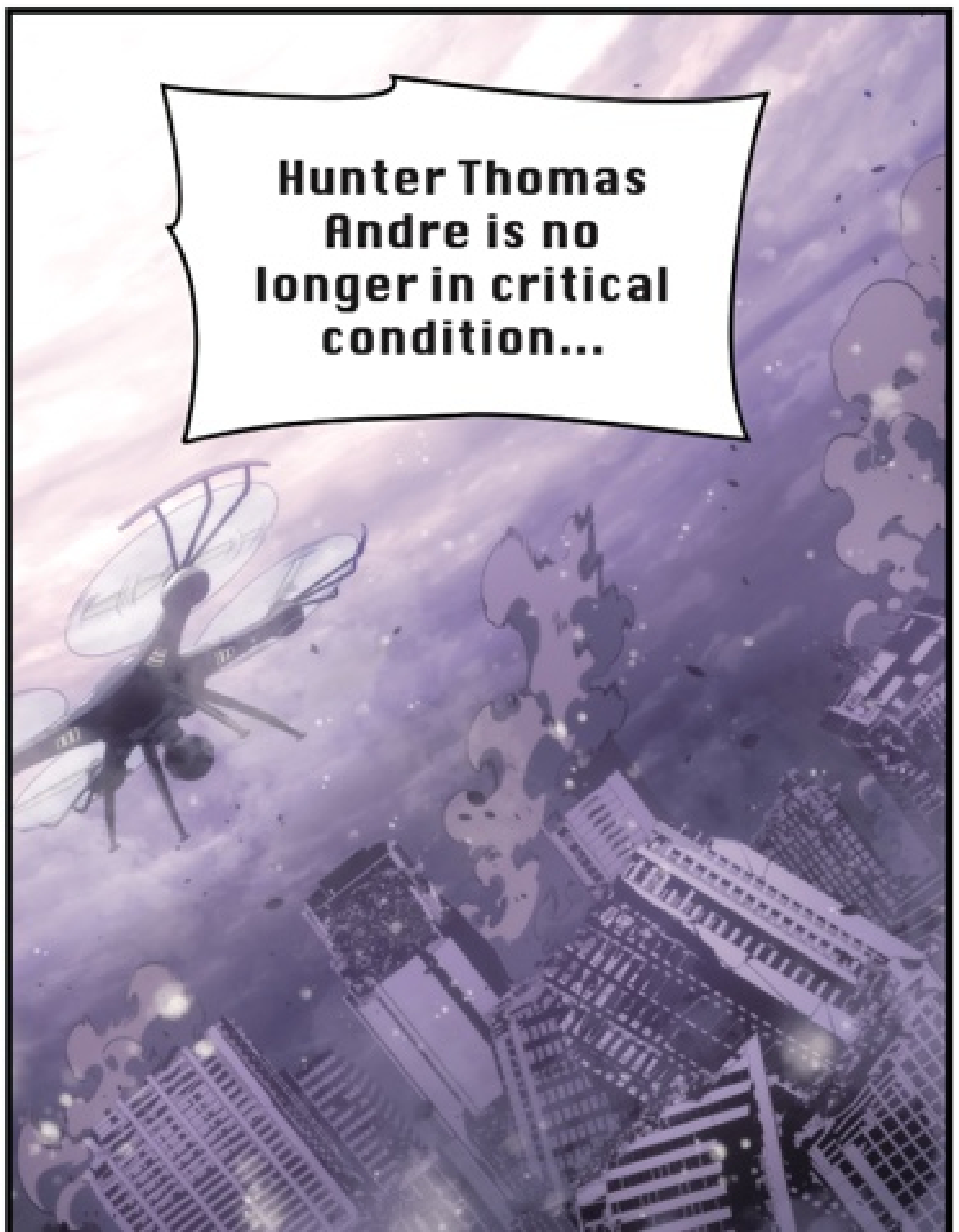
I'M SO SORRY...
...I WASN'T A BETTER FATHER.

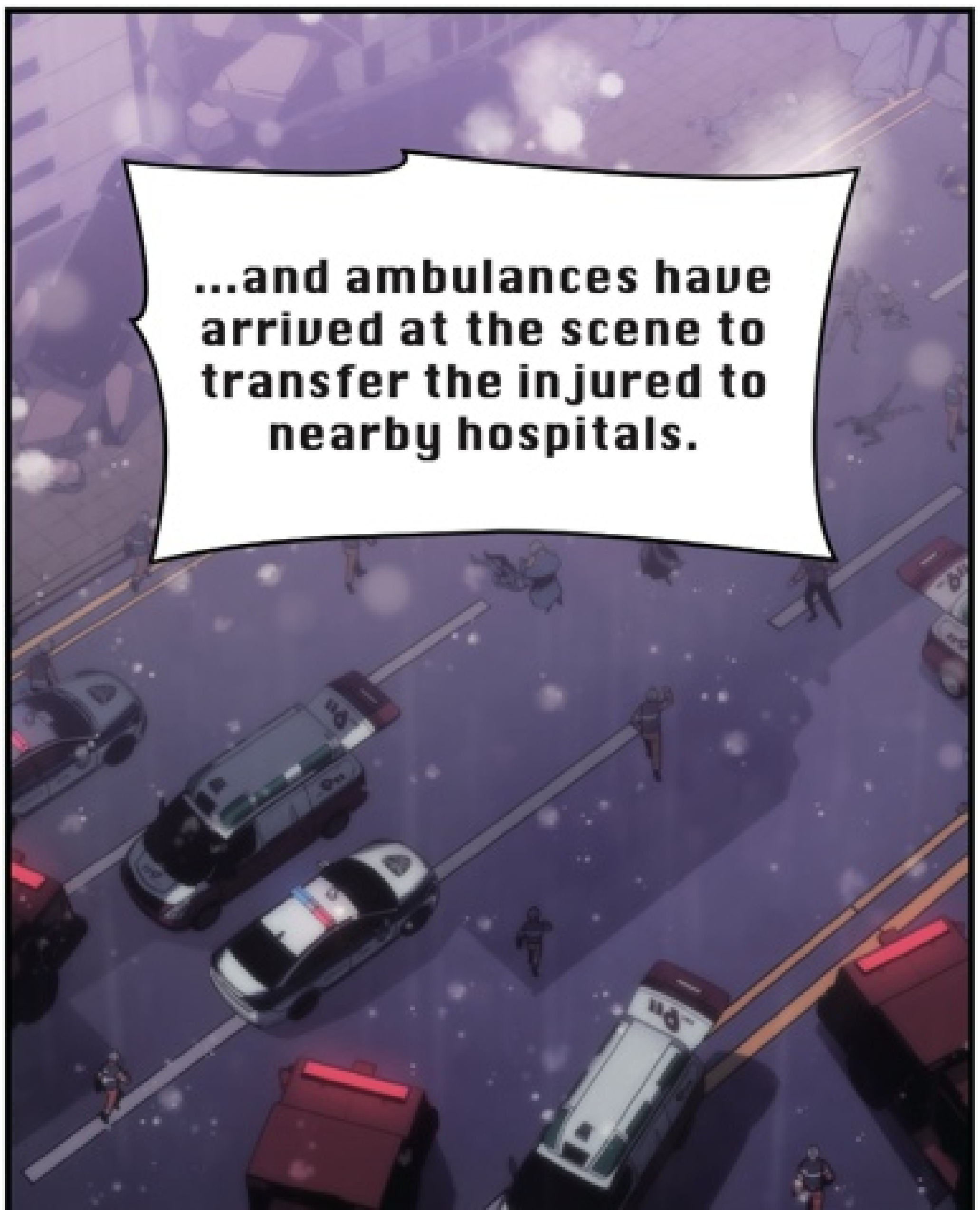
GRAB
AAAAH!

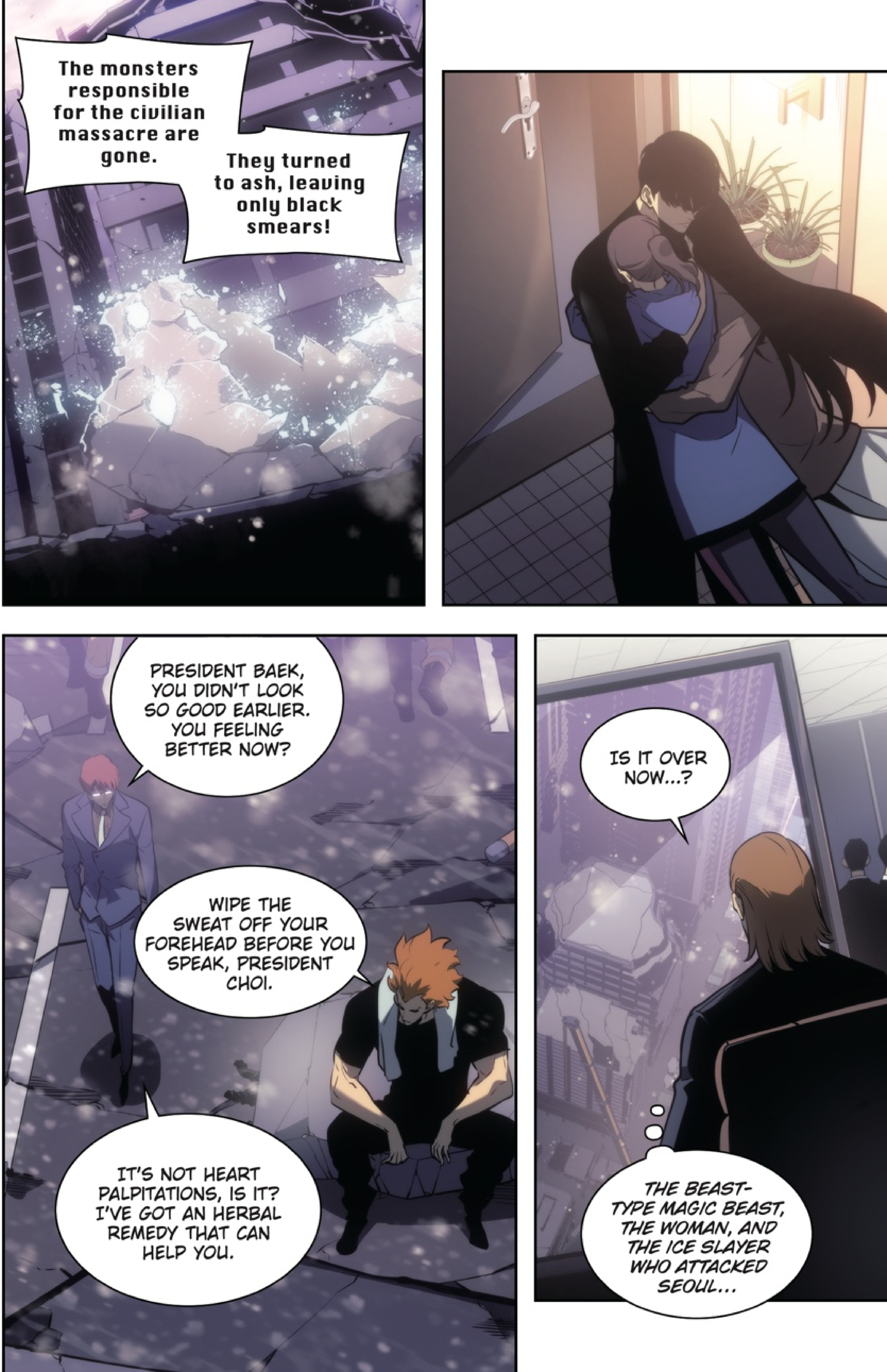
JINAH...
YEAH?
LET'S...
...MOVE TO A DIFFERENT PLACE.
I THINK...
...WE CAN MOVE NOW.
DRIP

THE DAY THE SHADOW MONARCH'S RAGE SHOOK THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

THAT WAS THE DAY THE WAR TRULY BEGAN.



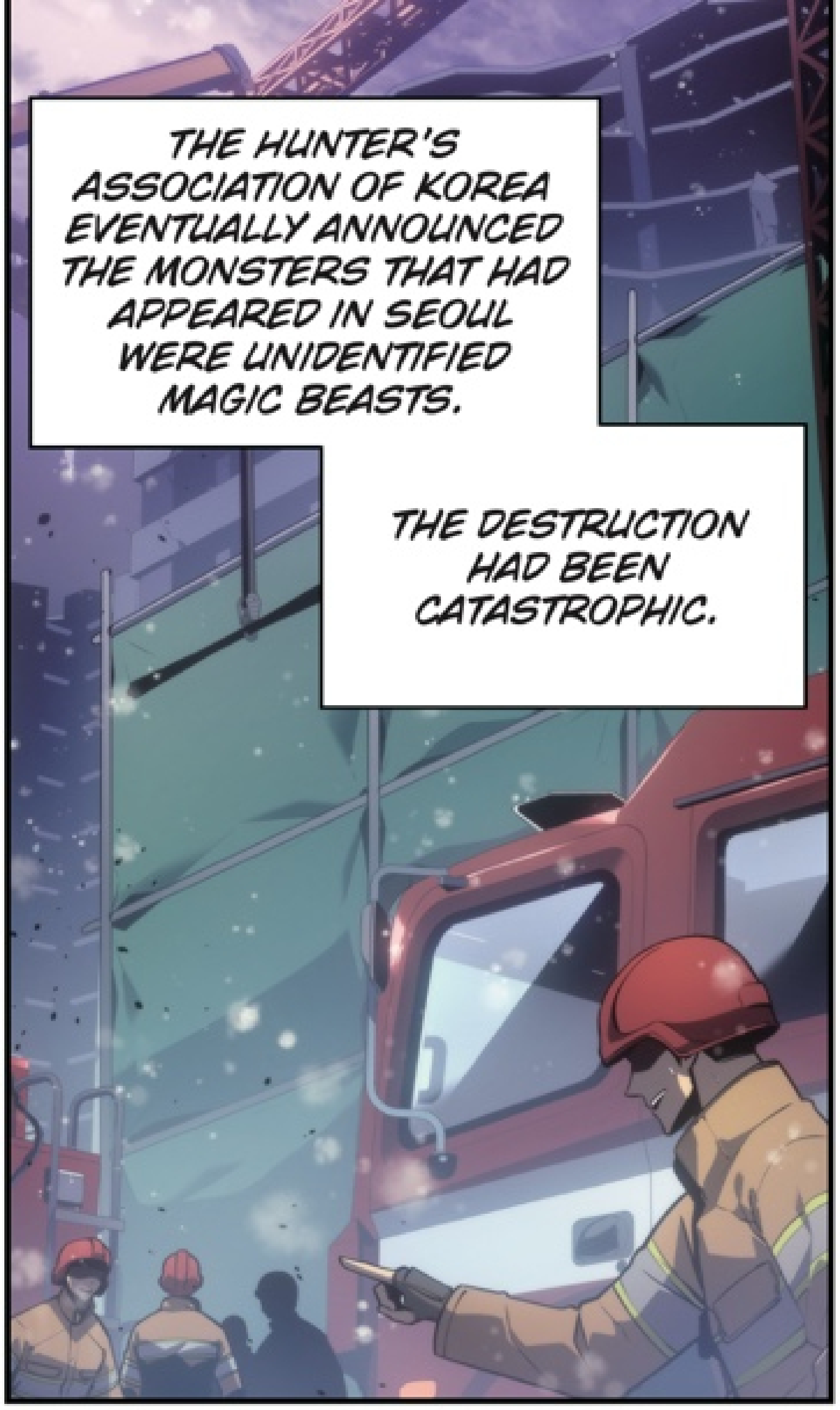



The monsters responsible for the civilian massacre are gone.
They turned to ash, leaving only black smears!
PRESIDENT BAEK, YOU DIDN'T LOOK SO GOOD EARLIER. YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?
WIPE THE SWEAT OFF YOUR FOREHEAD BEFORE YOU SPEAK, PRESIDENT CHOI.
IT'S NOT HEART PALPITATIONS, IS IT? I'VE GOT AN HERBAL REMEDY THAT CAN HELP YOU.
IS IT OVER NOW...?
THE BEAST-TYPE MAGIC BEAST, THE WOMAN, AND THE ICE SLAYER WHO ATTACKED SEOUL...

I'M GOING TO KILL HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS.
I'M GOING TO KILL THE MAGIC BEAST WHO TOOK PRESIDENT GO'S LIFE, WHATEVER IT TAKES.
SO PLEASE SAVE YOUR THANKS FOR LATER.

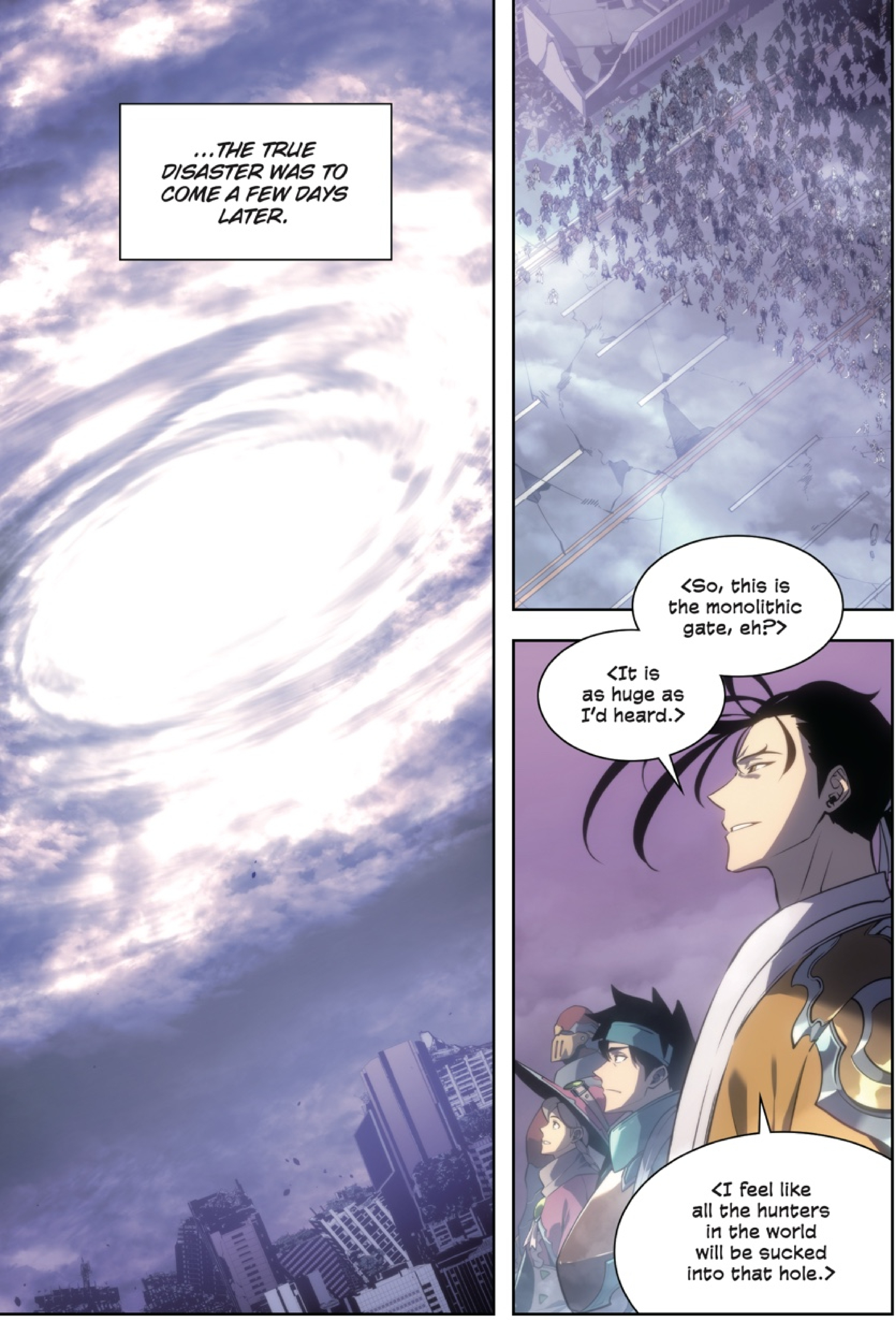
I SEE. SO THAT ICE SLAYER WAS...

...THANK YOU, HUNTER SUNG.

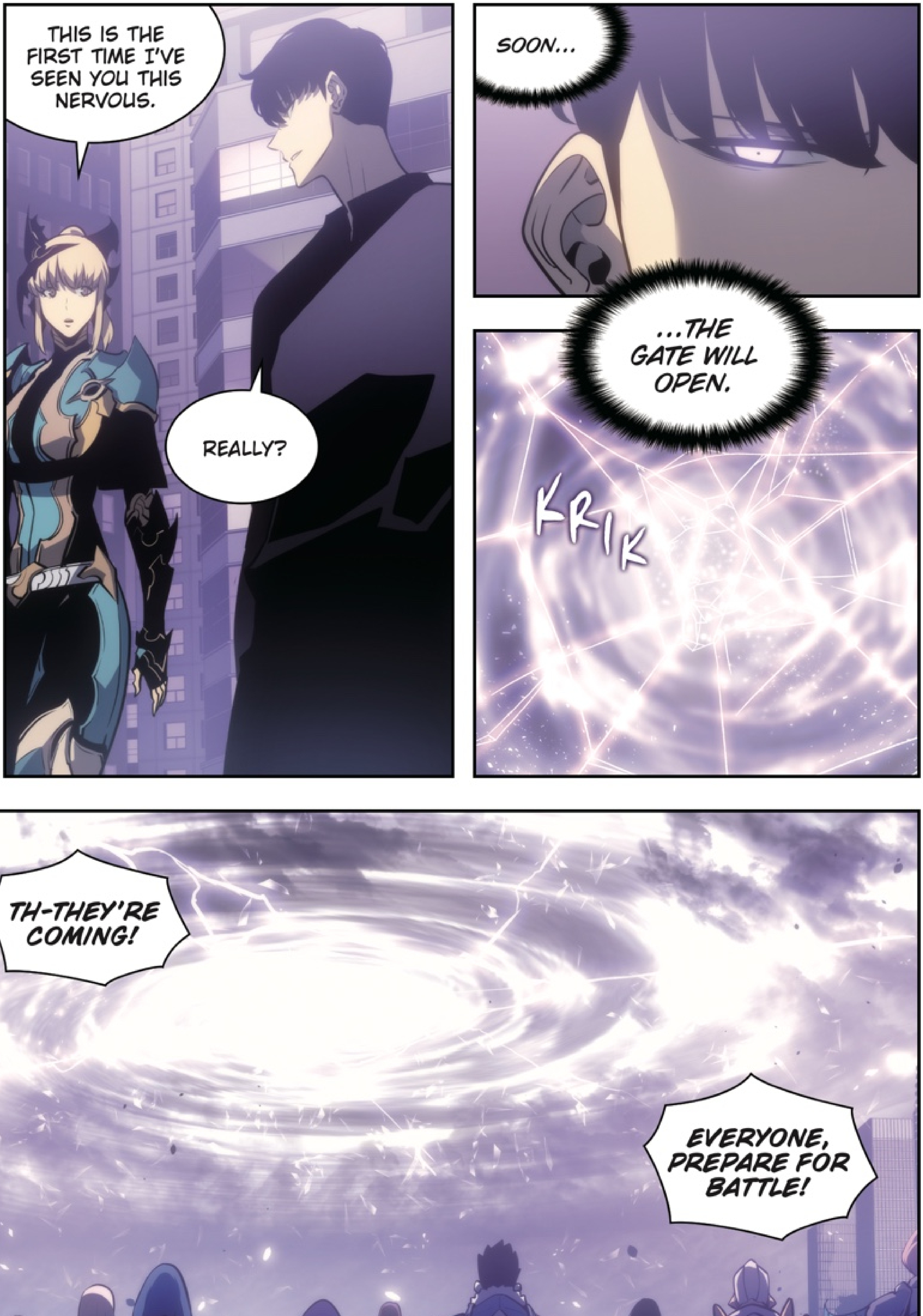

THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION OF KOREA EVENTUALLY ANNOUNCED THE MONSTERS THAT HAD APPEARED IN SEOUL WERE UNIDENTIFIED MAGIC BEASTS.
THE DESTRUCTION HAD BEEN CATASTROPHIC.

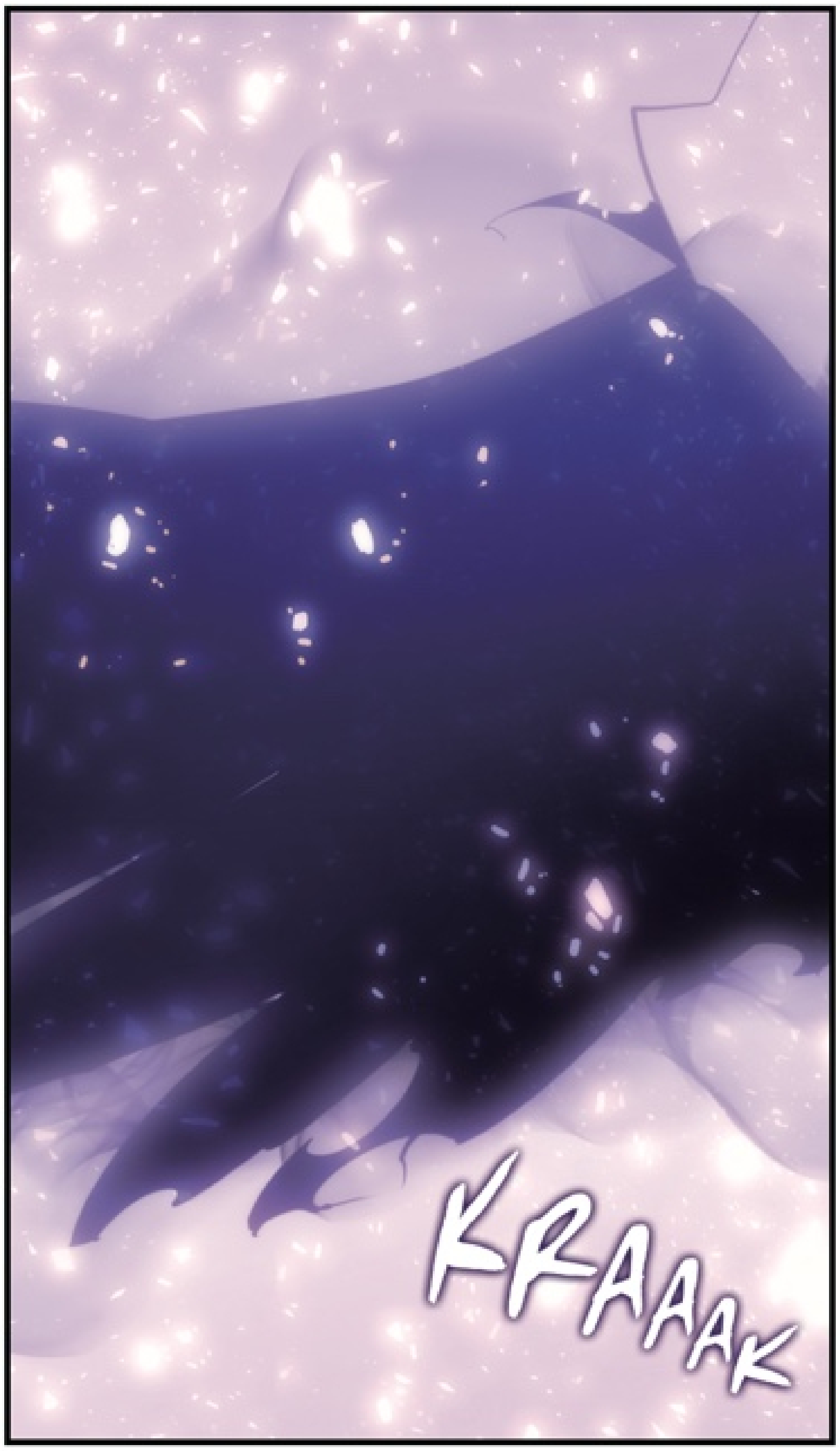
FWISH

HOWEVER...
WHOOOSH


...THE TRUE DISASTER WAS TO COME A FEW DAYS LATER.
<So, this is the monolithic gate, eh?>
<It is as huge as I'd heard.>
<I feel like all the hunters in the world will be sucked into that hole.>

<Guess it'll begin soon.>
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SO MANY HUNTERS HAVE GATHERED IN ONE PLACE.
HOW MANY WILL STILL BE ALIVE AFTER TODAY...?


THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU THIS NERVOUS.
REALLY?
SOON...
...THE GATE WILL OPEN.
KRIK
TH-THEY'RE COMING!
EVERYONE, PREPARE FOR BATTLE!


KRAAAK

TH-
THERE'S WAY
TOO MANY!
IT'S A HUGE
ARMY...!
EVERYONE,
HOLD YOUR
POSITION!
WE'LL GIVE
THESE MAGIC
BEASTS OUR
ALL!!

TH-THAT'S...!

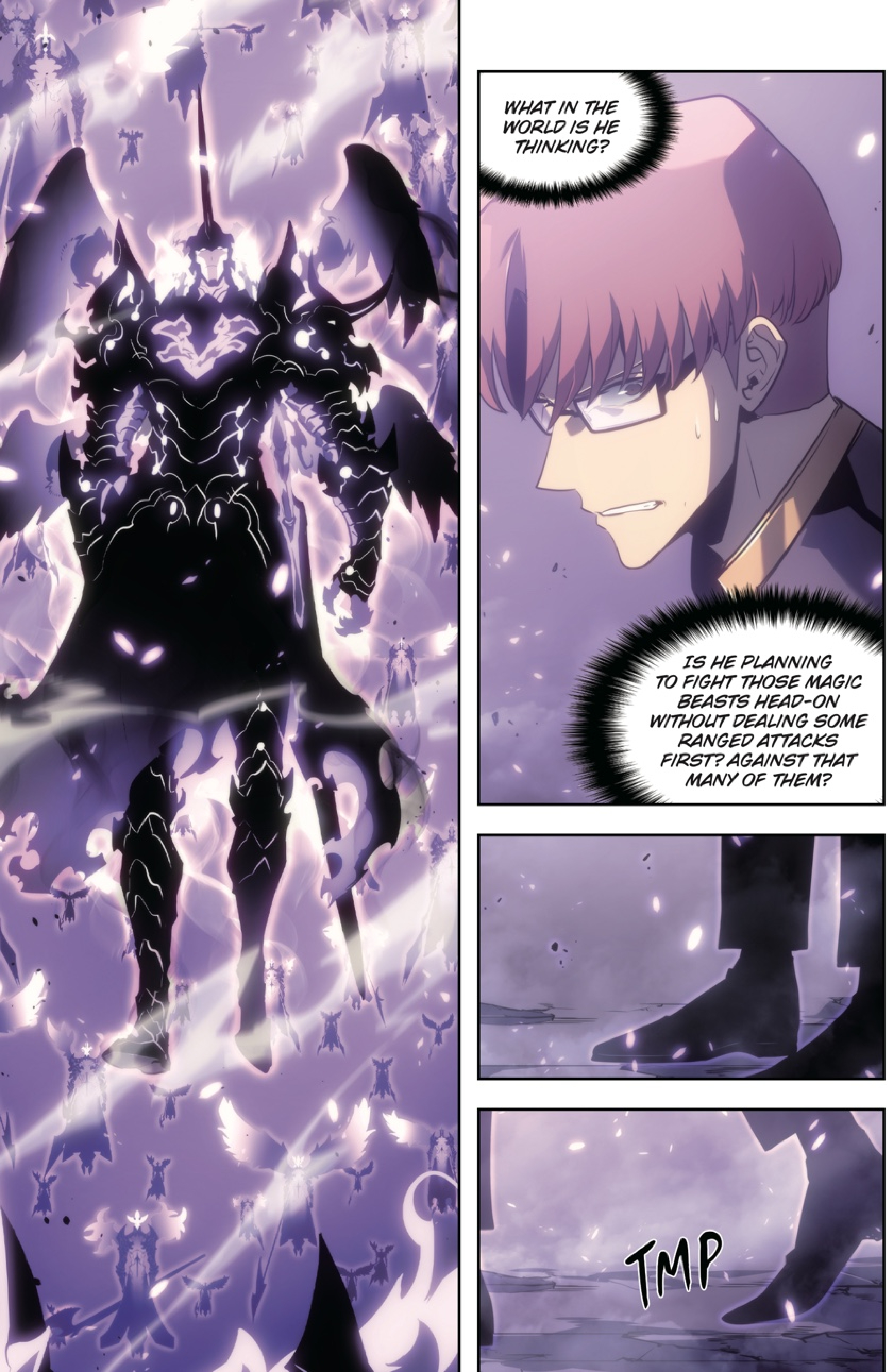
FLAP
FSHH
FWISH

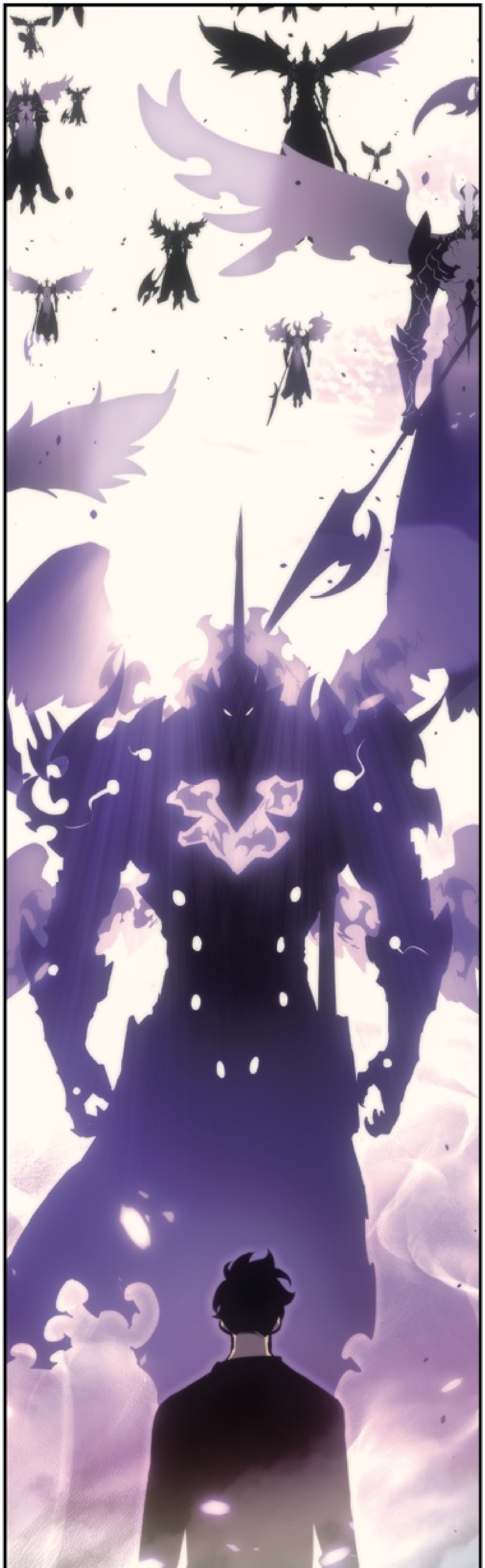
EVERYONE, ATTACK!!

GRIP

VWOOM

FRE
STAND DOWN, EVERYBODY!
EZE
WHY?
WHY DID HUNTER SUNG STOP US?
DO NOT ATTACK!
DO NOT ATTACK!
HUNTER SUNG, WHY—
IT'S OKAY, PRESIDENT WOO.


WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE THINKING?
IS HE PLANNING TO FIGHT THOSE MAGIC BEASTS HEAD-ON WITHOUT DEALING SOME RANGED ATTACKS FIRST? AGAINST THAT MANY OF THEM?
TMP



WHOOSH
THUD

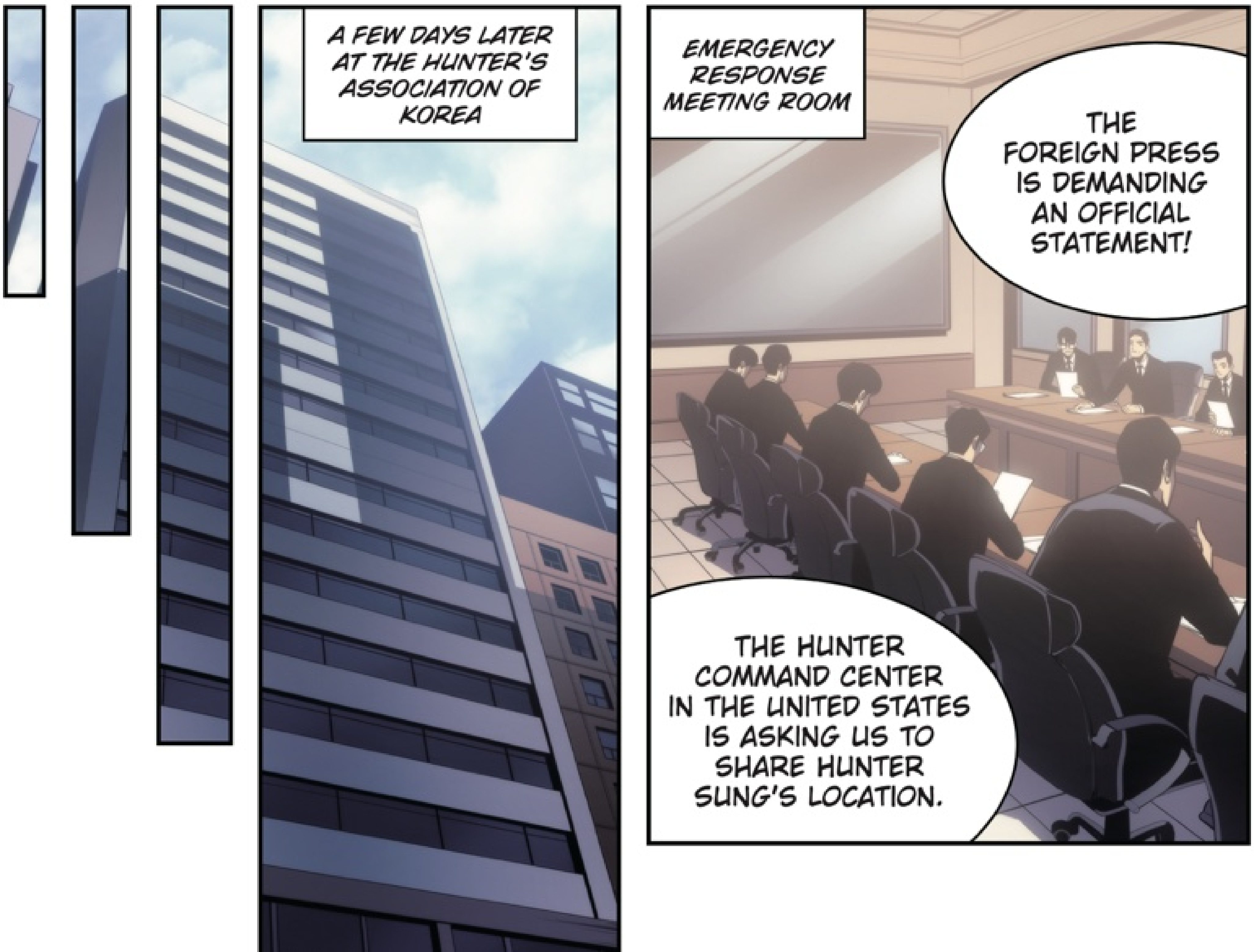
GRAND MARSHAL BELLION...

...AND THE SHADOW ARMY REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR.

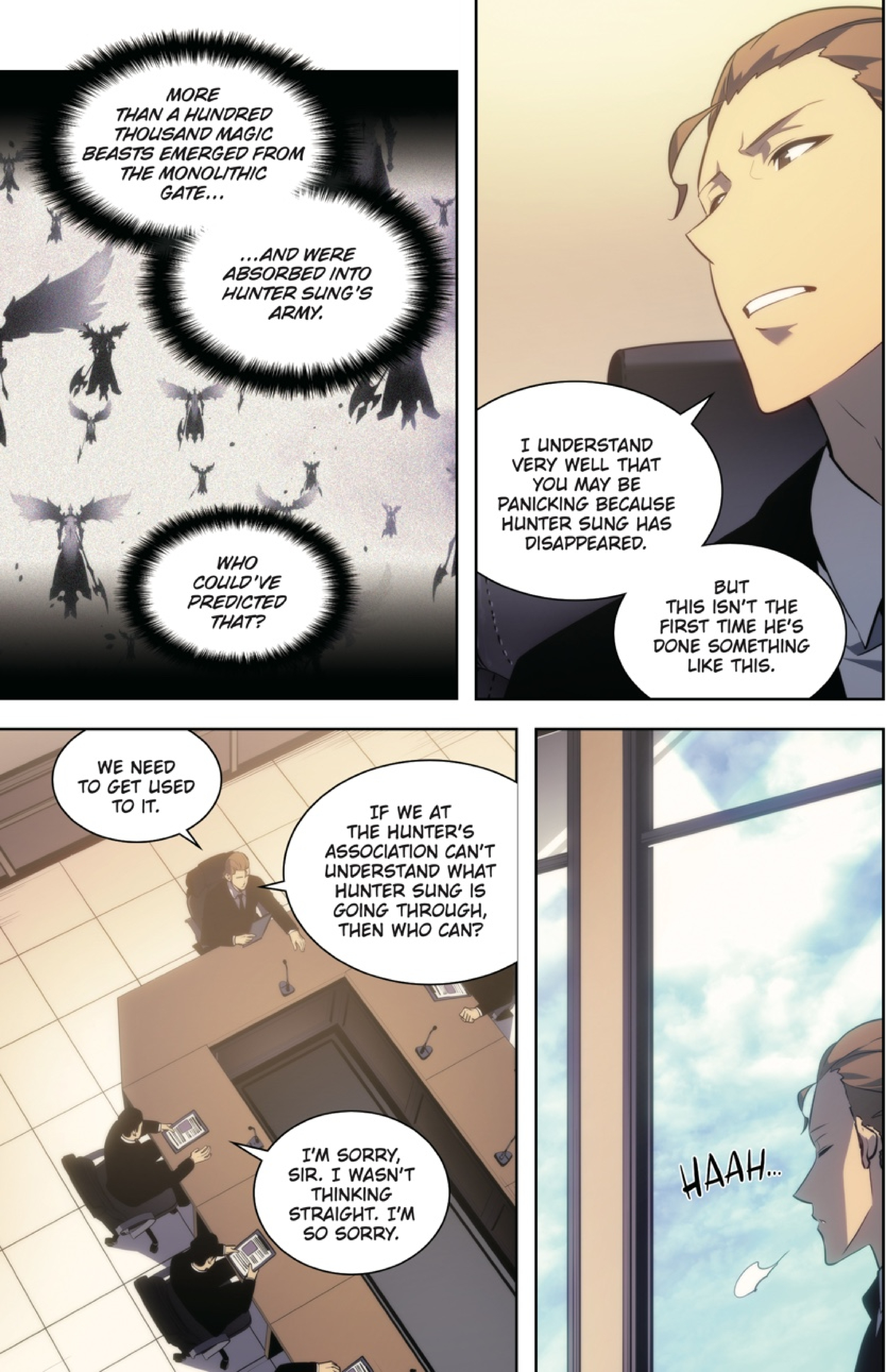
WHAT?!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
<You seeing what I'm seeing, right?>
<...I certainly am.>

EVEN ONE DRAGON WOULD THREATEN THE EXISTENCE OF ALL HUMANKIND—AND THERE ARE THREE OF THEM HERE.
SO THIS IS THE REAL SHADOW ARMY...
THIS IS MY INHERITANCE FROM THE PREVIOUS SHADOW MONARCH.

THE REAL WAR BEGINS NOW.


A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION OF KOREA
EMERGENCY RESPONSE MEETING ROOM
THE FOREIGN PRESS IS DEMANDING AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT!
THE HUNTER COMMAND CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES IS ASKING US TO SHARE HUNTER SUNG'S LOCATION.

SEOUL METROPOLITAN FIRE AND DISASTER HEADQUARTERS WANT TO KNOW WHEN THE EVACUEES CAN RETURN.
THE JIMMY SHOW FROM THE HUNTER CHANNEL WANTS TO INTERVIEW HUNTER SUNG—
TELL TIMMY OR JIMMY OR WHOEVER TO TRY AND REACH HUNTER SUNG HIMSELF!
UGH, DID HUNTER SUNG'S MINIONS HAVE TO USE THAT GATE...?
WOULD YOU PREFER THAT MAGIC BEASTS HAD EMERGED INSTEAD?
PARDON, SIR? UM, THAT'S NOT WHAT I—
WHAT IF ALL THESE CALLS YOU HAD TO ANSWER...
...WERE COMING FROM THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED HUNTERS INSTEAD OF THE MEDIA?
WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO GRUMBLE ABOUT WORK THEN?


MORE THAN A HUNDRED THOUSAND MAGIC BEASTS EMERGED FROM THE MONOLITHIC GATE...
...AND WERE ABSORBED INTO HUNTER SUNG'S ARMY.
WHO COULD'VE PREDICTED THAT?
I UNDERSTAND VERY WELL THAT YOU MAY BE PANICKING BECAUSE HUNTER SUNG HAS DISAPPEARED.
BUT THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME HE'S DONE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
WE NEED TO GET USED TO IT.
IF WE AT THE HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HUNTER SUNG IS GOING THROUGH, THEN WHO CAN?
I'M SORRY, SIR. I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT. I'M SO SORRY.
HAAH...

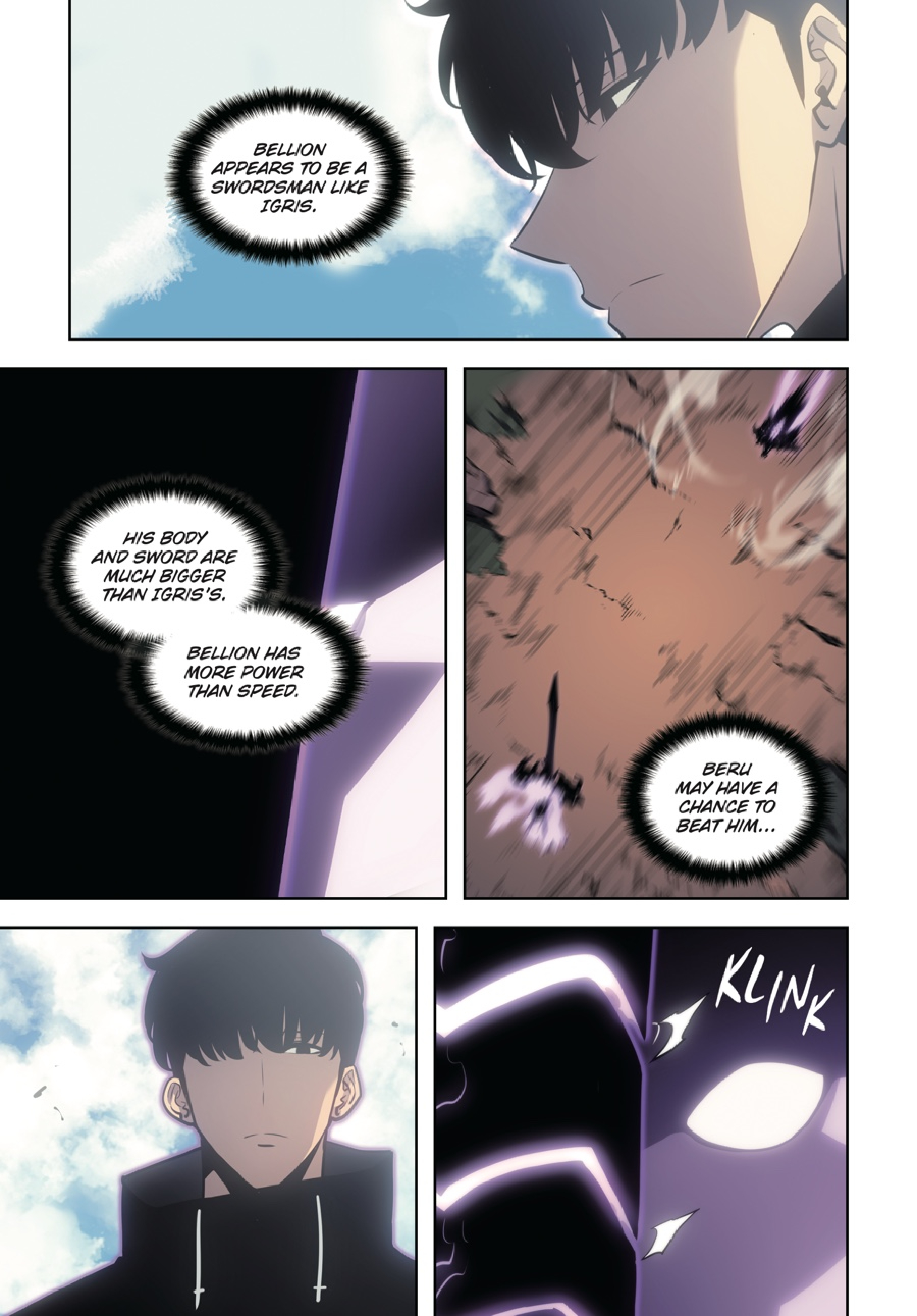
WHAT IS
HUNTER SUNG
DOING NOW?

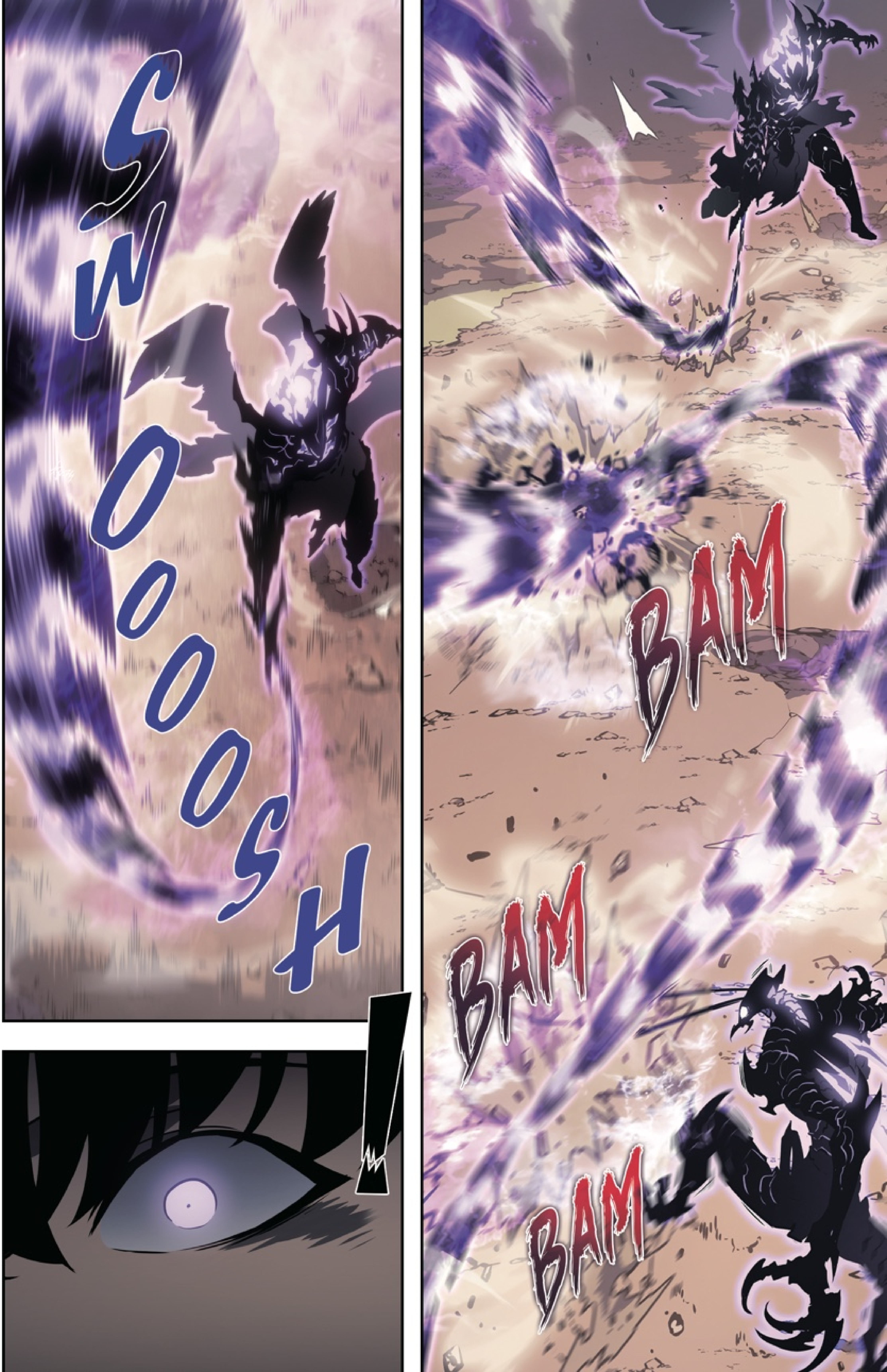
TO DIVIDE THE SOLDIERS INTO TWO GROUPS AND MAKE THEM FIGHT A MOCK BATTLE...
I HAD NEVER THOUGHT OF MANEUVERING SOLDIERS IN THIS WAY.
THEY DON'T DIE ANYWAY.
MY KING...
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO BE TESTED FOR THE RANK OF GRAND MARSHAL.
GRAND MARSHAL?

I, MARSHAL BERU, WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE GRAND MARSHAL BELLION.

A FIGHT BETWEEN MARSHALS...

SKRAAAAH!
KLANK


BELLION APPEARS TO BE A SWORDSMAN LIKE IGRIS.
HIS BODY AND SWORD ARE MUCH BIGGER THAN IGRIS'S.
BELLION HAS MORE POWER THAN SPEED.
BERU MAY HAVE A CHANCE TO BEAT HIM...
KLINK


SWOOOOSH
!
BAM
BAM
BAM

SWOOSH
WHUD
WHOOOOM
SHWP

IS IT OVER?
BELLION NEUTRALIZED BERU'S CHARGE AT ONCE.
HIS REFLEXES ARE BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS.
AND HE HAS INCREDIBLE DESTRUCTIVE POWER THAT CAN DAMAGE THE GROUND WITH ONLY ONE STRIKE.
BELLION IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, A SOLDIER WORTHY OF THE GRAND MARSHAL RANK.
...STILL, HE SHOULDN'T LET HIS GUARD DOWN.
GLINT

BECAUSE AN INSECT'S GREATEST ATTRIBUTE IS ITS TENACITY.

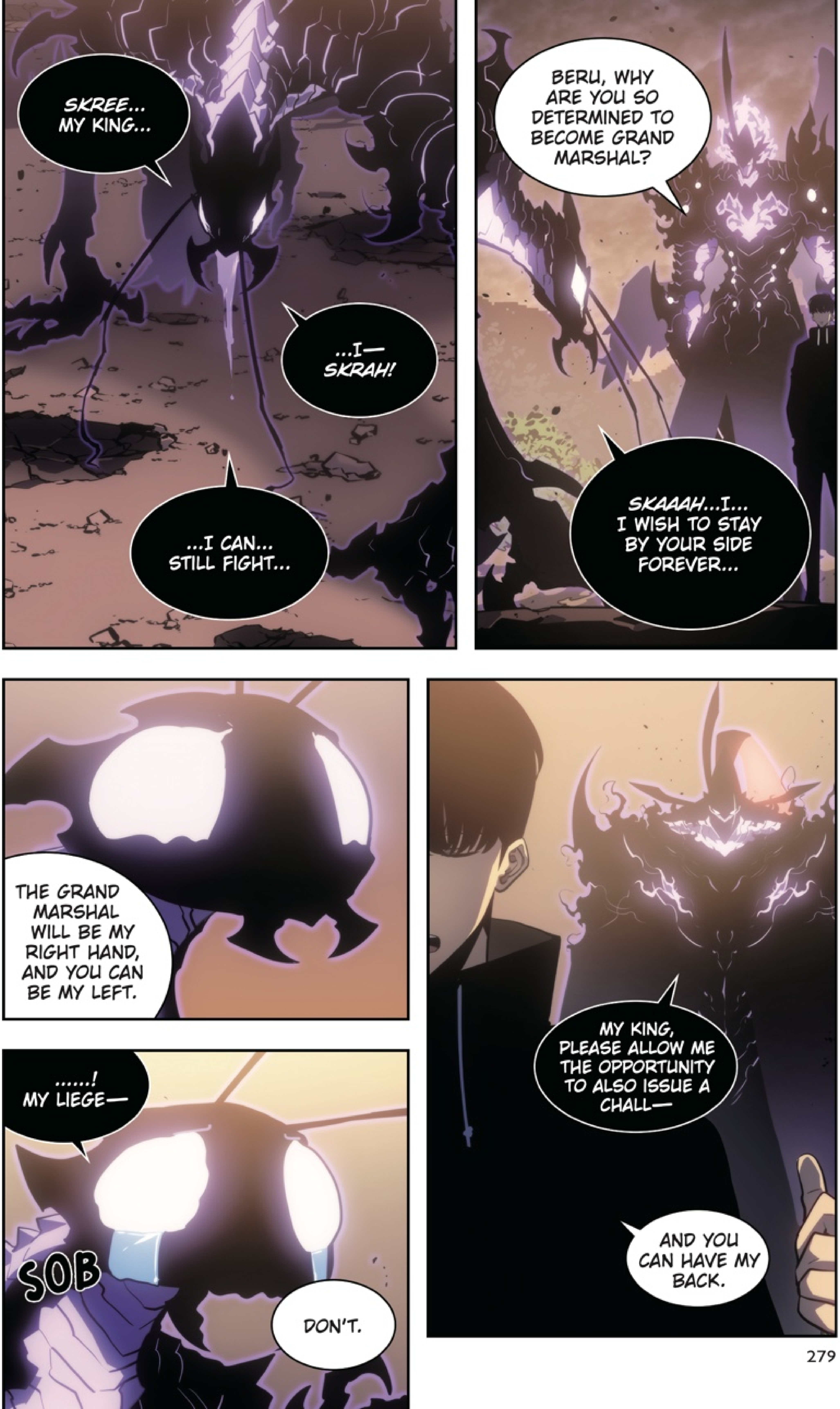
BEIJING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
<Many people have applauded your brave decision, Hunter Liu.>
<Oh! There's Hunter Liu!>
<The hunters, the pride and joy of our nation, have returned from Korea.>
<On the other hand, there are some criticizing you aiding South Korea.>
<What do you have to say to them?>
<What idiot is saying things like that?>
<Pardon?>
<Are their brains just for decoration, or do they really not know how to read a map?>
<Do they not see the massive country just a little ways north of South Korea?>
<Tell all these damn people talking nonsense...>
<...that I, Zhigang Liu, went to help Hunter Sung because I knew that if he failed to prevent disaster there, I would fail to prevent it here.>
<Anyone out there who has a problem with that can go hunt magic beasts on their—>

!!
<Oh my god...>

I SEE...
SO THE SHADOW MONARCH HAS BECOME OUR ENEMY.
I UNDERSTAND. I WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
DO NOT DO ANYTHING.
WE MUST NOT SUSTAIN ANY MORE LOSSES.
THUD
PREPARE FOR WAR...
...MY SOLDIERS.

THUD

SLAM

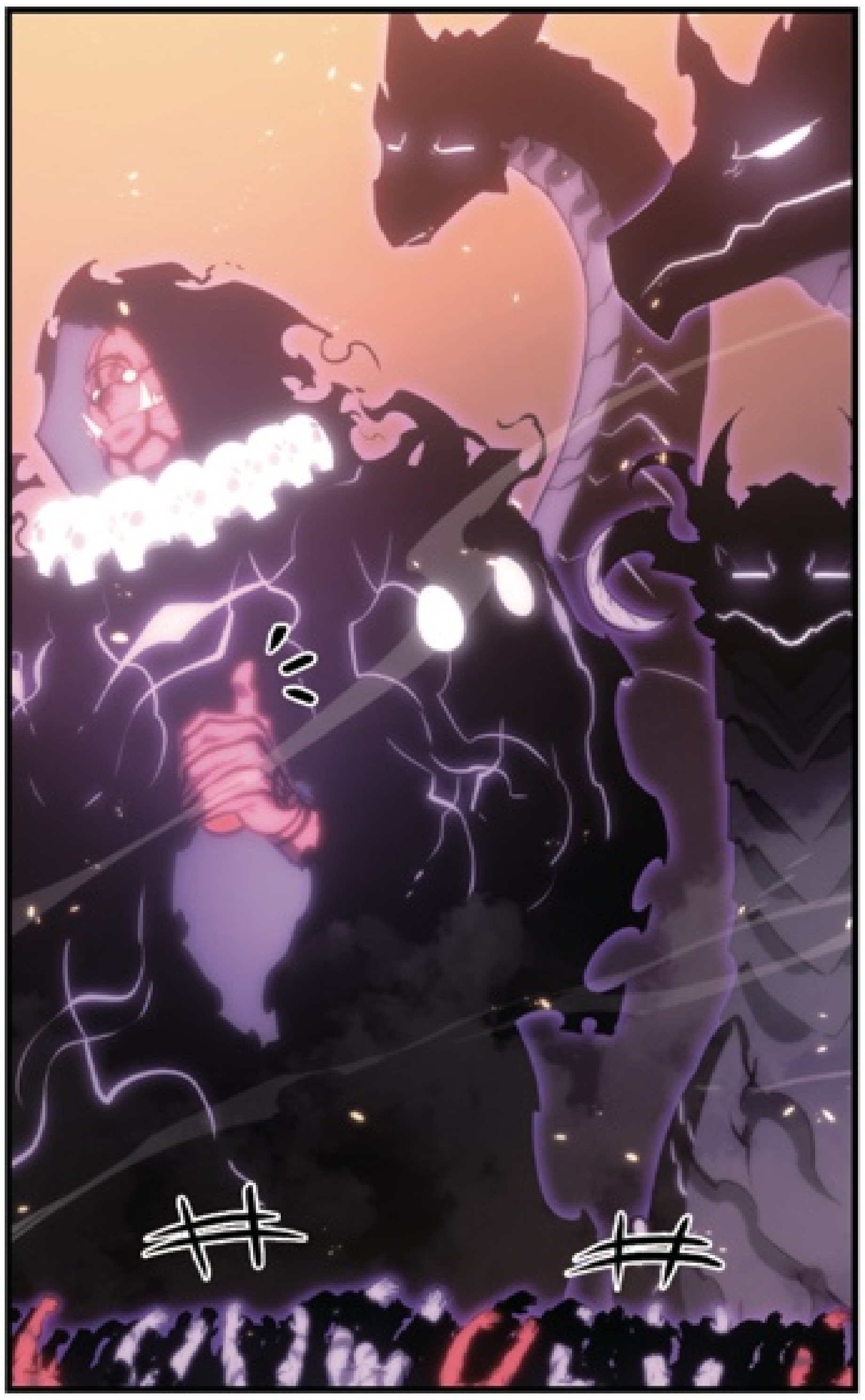

SKREE... MY KING...
...I— SKRAH!
...I CAN... STILL FIGHT...
BERU, WHY ARE YOU SO DETERMINED TO BECOME GRAND MARSHAL?
SKAAAH...I... I WISH TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE FOREVER...
THE GRAND MARSHAL WILL BE MY RIGHT HAND, AND YOU CAN BE MY LEFT.
......! MY LIEGE—
SOB
DON'T.
MY KING, PLEASE ALLOW ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ALSO ISSUE A CHALL—
AND YOU CAN HAVE MY BACK.

HUH?
WHAT ARE THOSE GUYS UP TO?
FWOOOOOM

SMIRK

WHOOSH

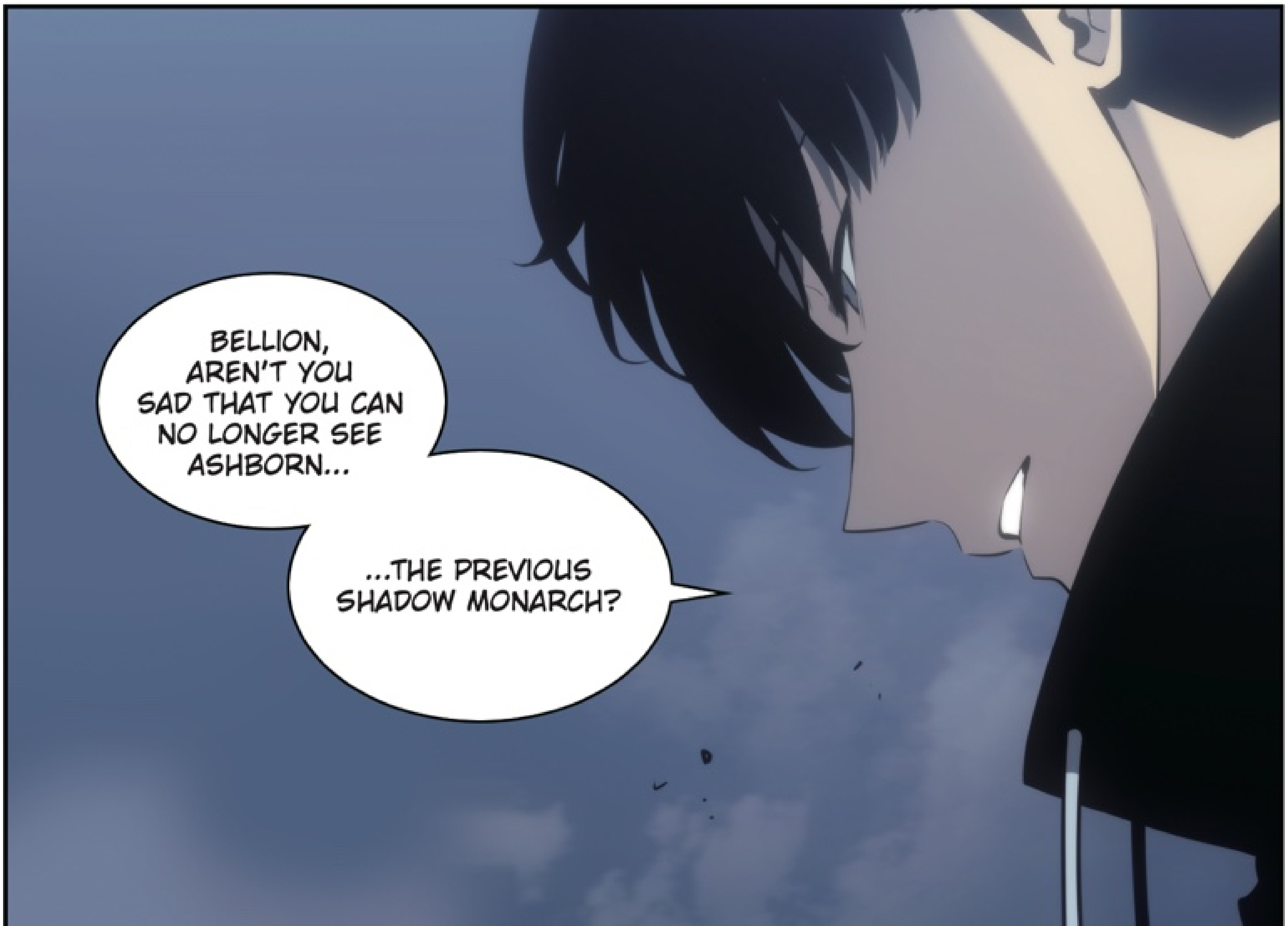
FWOOOOM



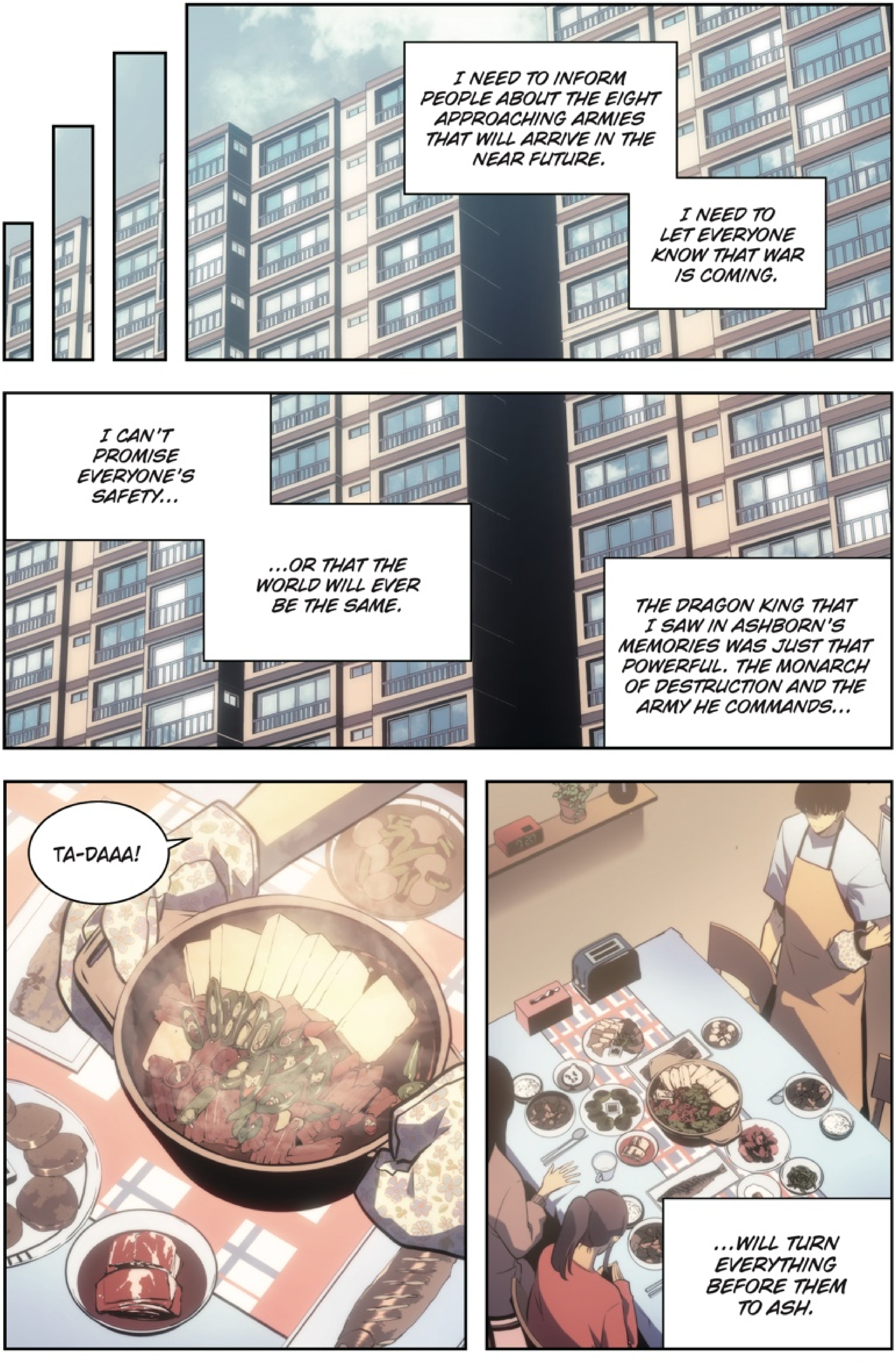
ISN'T IT CHEATING TO USE THE SPHERE OF AVARICE?

...WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?
IT APPEARS THEY WISH TO BUILD A SMALL SHELTER FOR YOU TO REST COMFORTABLY...
...WHILE WE ARE HERE, MY LIEGE.
THIS IS BERU'S DOING, I PRESUME.

MY KING, WHY DO YOU NOT CALL BACK YOUR SHADOW SOLDIERS?
I DON'T WANT THEM TO FEEL IMPRISONED.
THEY WERE STUCK IN THE GAP BETWEEN DIMENSIONS BEFORE ARRIVING HERE, AFTER ALL.

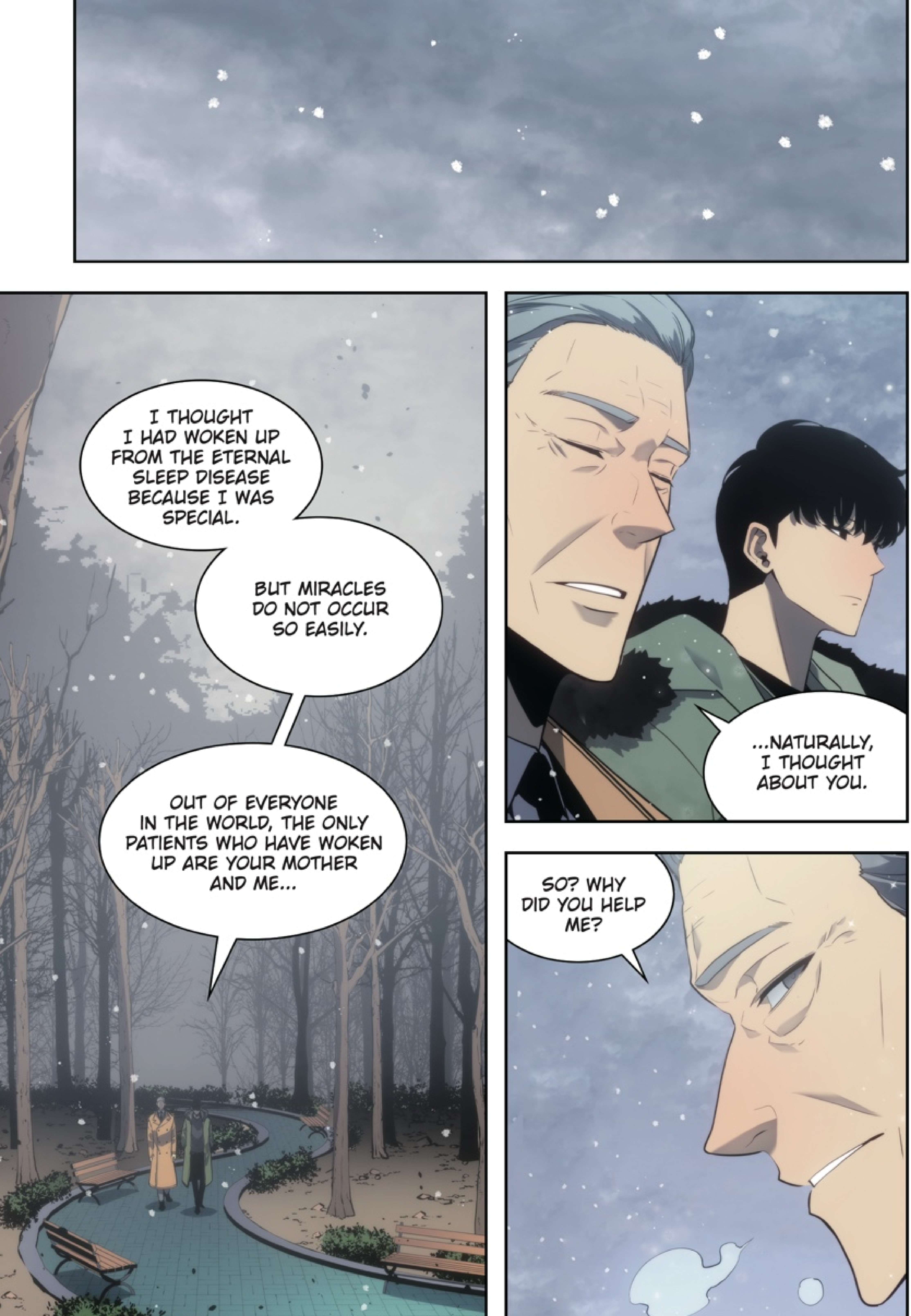

BELLION, AREN'T YOU SAD THAT YOU CAN NO LONGER SEE ASHBORN...
...THE PREVIOUS SHADOW MONARCH?

I STOOD BY HIS SIDE WHEN HE TRIED TO STOP THE RULERS IN THE REBELLION AGAINST THE SUPREME BEING.
WHEN HE ACQUIRED POWER OVER THE DEAD, I WAS THE FIRST TO VOLUNTEER TO BE HIS SOLDIER.
I ASSISTED HIM FOR NEARLY AN ETERNITY...
...AND I NEVER ONCE QUESTIONED HIS DECISION.
I'D LIKE TO HEAR THE STORY OF YOU AND ASHBORN, IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU.
IT IS A LONG STORY.
THE STORY BEGINS WHEN I WAS STILL BUT A FRUIT IN THE WORLD TREE.
A FRUIT? YOU USED TO BE A FRUIT?
EVERY SOLDIER OF THE SKY IS BORN AS A FRUIT ON A BRANCH OF THE WORLD TREE.
THE TREE IS ENORMOUS, AND ITS BRANCHES COVER THE ENTIRE SKY.
YOU DON'T SAY...

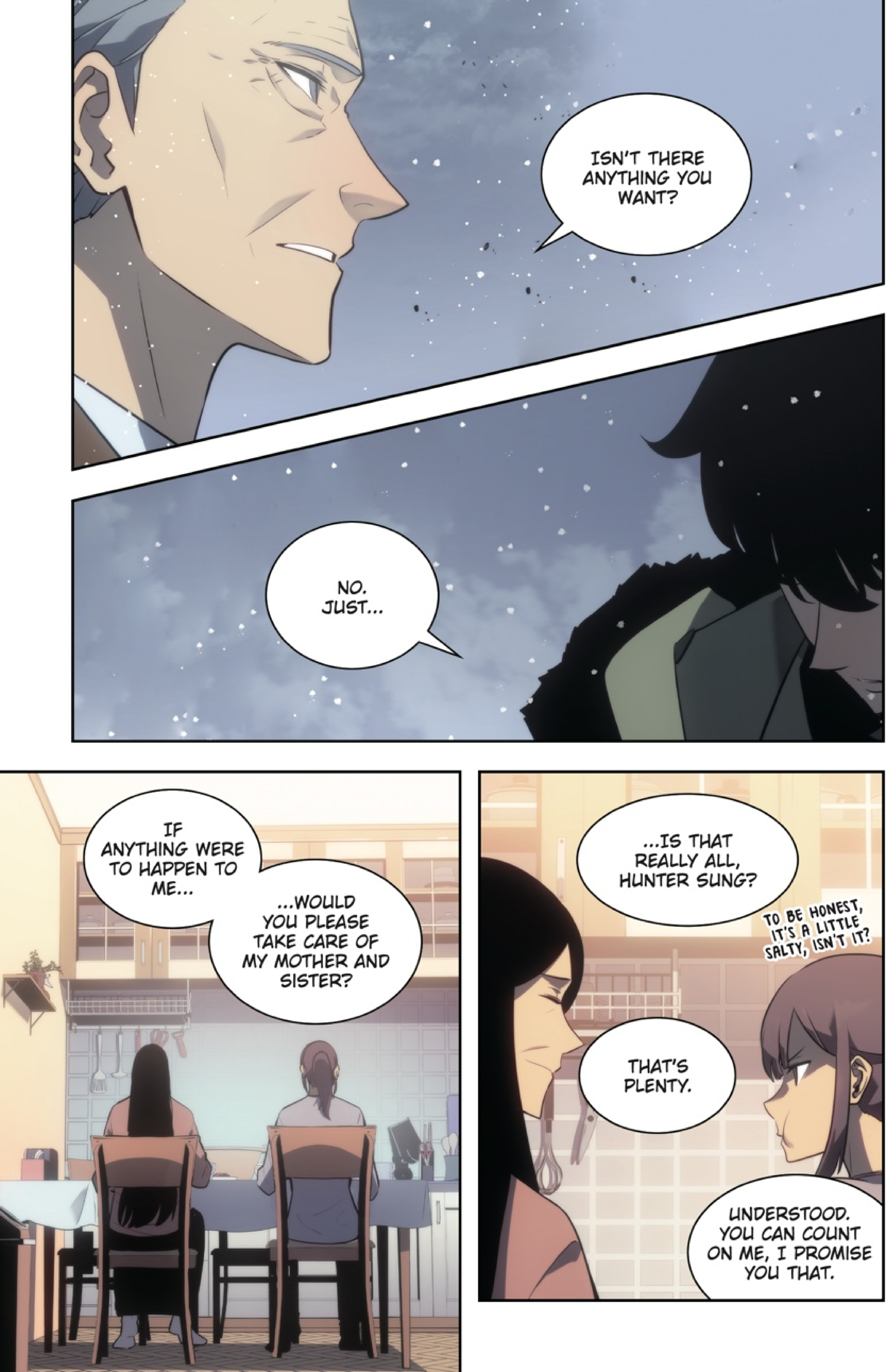

I NEED TO INFORM PEOPLE ABOUT THE EIGHT APPROACHING ARMIES THAT WILL ARRIVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
I NEED TO LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT WAR IS COMING.
I CAN'T PROMISE EVERYONE'S SAFETY...
...OR THAT THE WORLD WILL EVER BE THE SAME.
THE DRAGON KING THAT I SAW IN ASHBORN'S MEMORIES WAS JUST THAT POWERFUL. THE MONARCH OF DESTRUCTION AND THE ARMY HE COMMANDS...
TA-DAAA!
...WILL TURN EVERYTHING BEFORE THEM TO ASH.

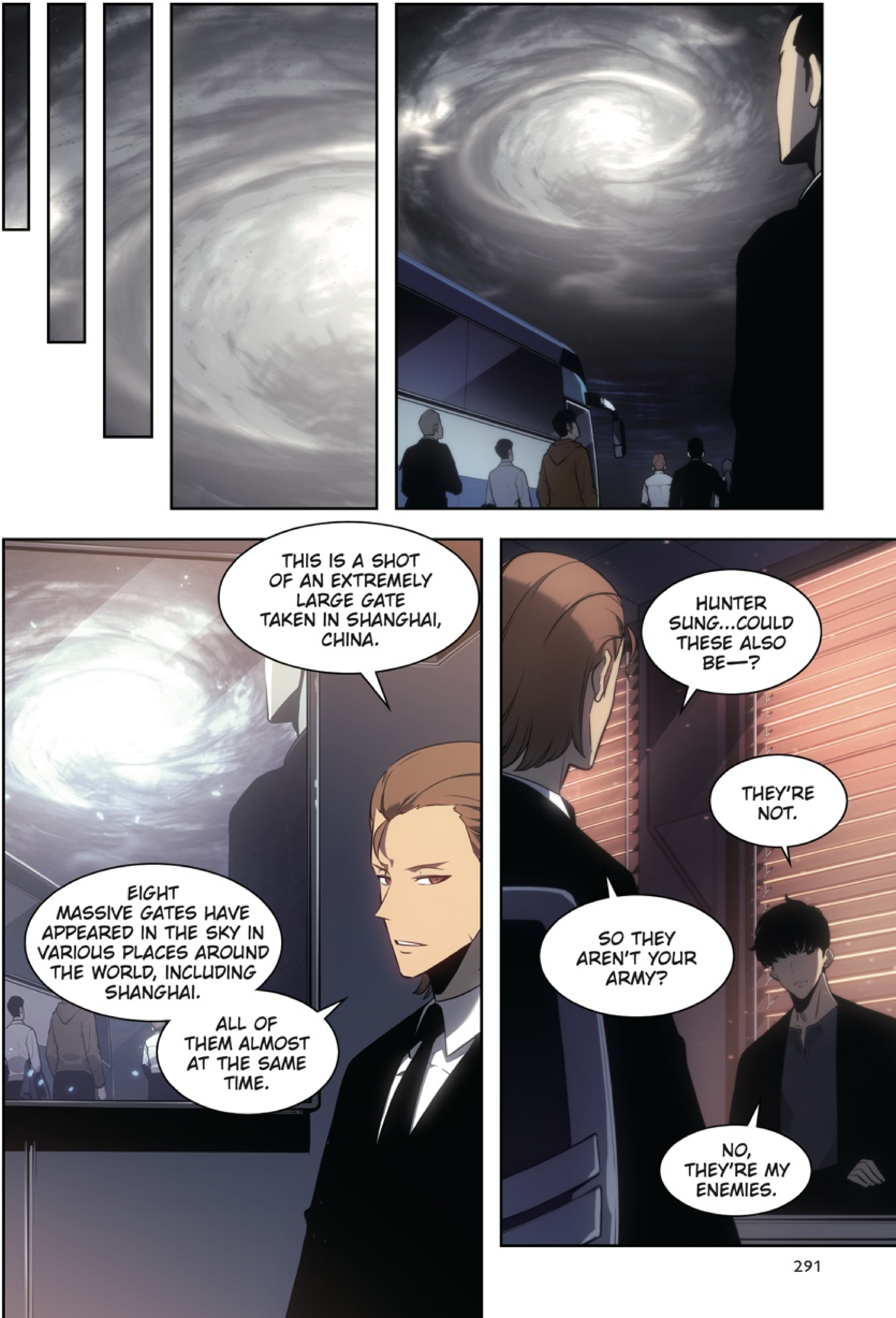
AND THEIR NEXT TARGET IS EARTH.
SLURP
SO HOW IS IT, MOM? IT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT?
WHO KNEW JINWOO COULD COOK, RIGHT?
TRY THIS TOO, MOM. HIS PERFECTLY SEASONED SIDE DISHES.
JINWOO...IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
KA-CHAK
YOUR FATHER USED TO COOK FOR ME LIKE THIS BEFORE HE WENT ON DANGEROUS MISSIONS.
LIKE FATHER LIKE SON. YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HIM IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION...
NOTHING'S THE MATTER, MOM.
KLAK

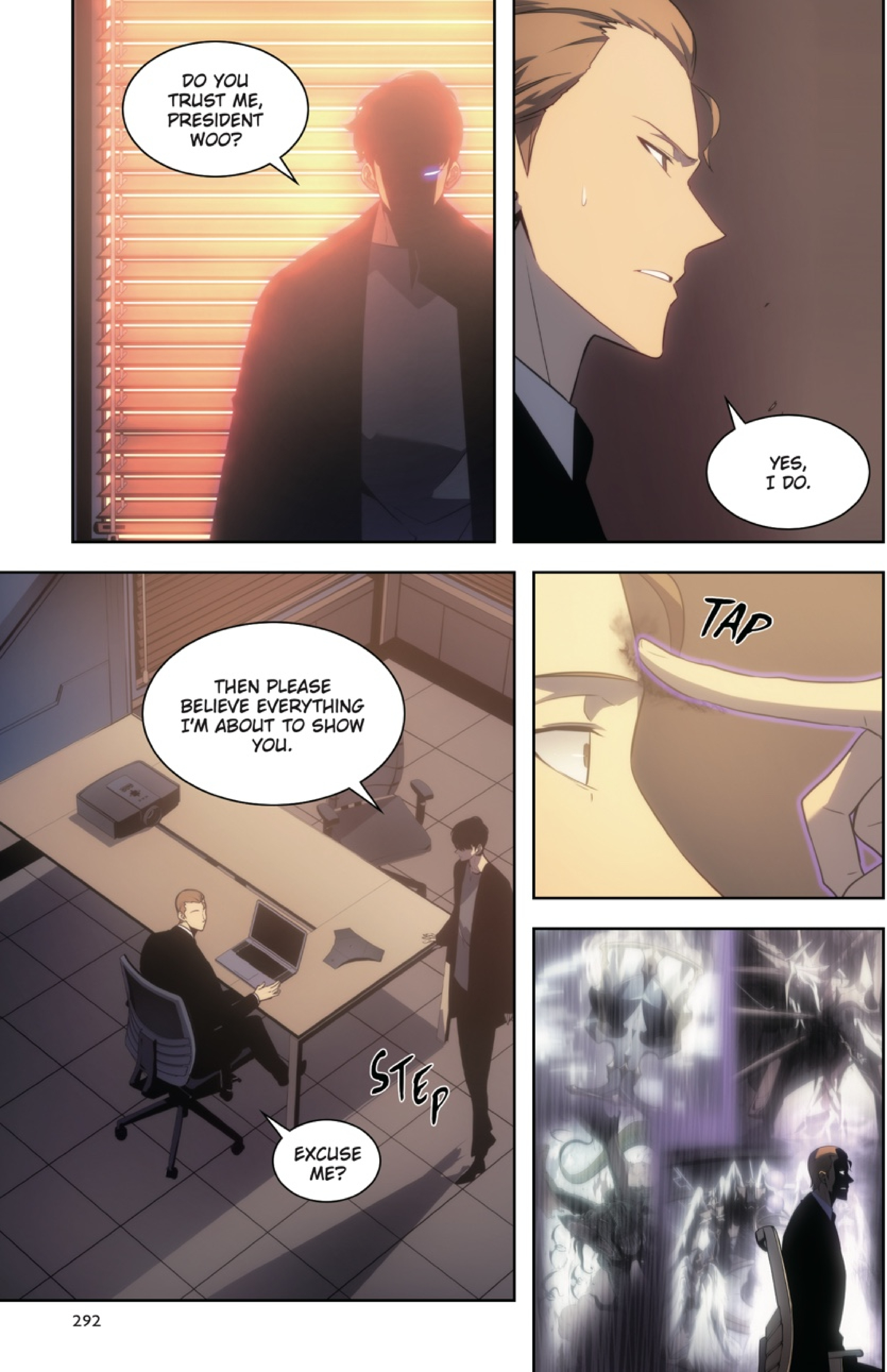
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A VISITOR. I'LL BE BACK.
HUH? I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
THAT'S WHY I NEED TO GIVE EVERYONE, INCLUDING MYSELF, TIME TO PREPARE.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
HUNTER SUNG... MY APOLOGIES FOR THE UNANNOUNCED VISIT...
...BUT MAY WE TALK, PLEASE?


I THOUGHT I HAD WOKEN UP FROM THE ETERNAL SLEEP DISEASE BECAUSE I WAS SPECIAL.
BUT MIRACLES DO NOT OCCUR SO EASILY.
OUT OF EVERYONE IN THE WORLD, THE ONLY PATIENTS WHO HAVE WOKEN UP ARE YOUR MOTHER AND ME...
...NATURALLY, I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU.
SO? WHY DID YOU HELP ME?

BECAUSE I CONCLUDED THAT YOU WERE A TRUSTWORTHY PERSON.
IF YOU WERE THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO WOULD DO ANYTHING TO GET WHAT YOU WANTED...
...I WOULDN'T HAVE PUT MYSELF IN A TRICKY SITUATION FOR YOU.
YOU MEAN...BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRY TO USE JINHO?
YES.
...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU.
PLEASE, LET ME PAY YOU BACK HALF, OR AT THE VERY LEAST A QUARTER OF WHAT I OWE YOU.
PLEASE, LET ME DO THIS.


ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
NO. JUST...
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO ME...
...WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY MOTHER AND SISTER?
...IS THAT REALLY ALL, HUNTER SUNG?
TO BE HONEST, IT'S A LITTLE SALTY, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S PLENTY.
UNDERSTOOD. YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, I PROMISE YOU THAT.


THIS IS A SHOT OF AN EXTREMELY LARGE GATE TAKEN IN SHANGHAI, CHINA.
EIGHT MASSIVE GATES HAVE APPEARED IN THE SKY IN VARIOUS PLACES AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING SHANGHAI.
ALL OF THEM ALMOST AT THE SAME TIME.
HUNTER SUNG...COULD THESE ALSO BE—?
THEY'RE NOT.
SO THEY AREN'T YOUR ARMY?
NO, THEY'RE MY ENEMIES.


DO YOU TRUST ME, PRESIDENT WOO?
YES, I DO.
THEN PLEASE BELIEVE EVERYTHING I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU.
STEP
EXCUSE ME?
TAP

HAAH...!
THUD
THIS IS INSANE...
HOW COULD THIS BE...?!

IT WAS MY BELIEF THAT GOD HAD GIFTED SPECIAL POWERS TO A SMALL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN ORDER TO DEFEND HUMANITY...
THAT THE HUNTERS' GOD-GIVEN MISSION WAS TO FIGHT AGAINST MAGIC BEASTS.
BUT IF WHAT YOU HAVE SHOWN ME IS TRUE...
...I HAVE BEEN VERY ARROGANT.
EVERYTHING I'VE BELIEVED IS WRONG.
HUNTERS...NO, AWAKENED BEINGS ARE MERELY THE RESULT OF THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMING HUMANS...
...SO THAT A REMNANT CAN SURVIVE THE COMING WAR.

AND IT ISN'T A WAR BETWEEN HUMANS AND THE MONARCHS, BUT THE MONARCHS VERSUS THE RULERS...
...BEINGS WHO HAVE INCREDIBLE POWERS.
NO WAY... HUNTER SUNG...
...ARE YOU ACTUALLY PLANNING TO FIGHT THEM? BY YOURSELF?
YES.
THEN HOW CAN WE...
...NO, HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

HAVE YOU HEARD FROM ANY MORE ATTENDEES?
NO, SIR. SO FAR 152 COUNTRIES HAVE CHECKED IN SINCE THIS MORNING.
SIR, IF I MAY ASK, WHAT DID HUNTER SUNG SAY TO YOU YESTERDAY IN YOUR OFFICE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR FACE THAT PALE.
I'M SORRY, SIR. I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED...
NO, I'M NOT UPSET.
THE ARMY OF WILD DRAGONS EMERGING OUT OF THE DARKNESS...

...AND THE HUMONGOUS DRAGON FLYING RIGHT BEHIND THEM.
A MONSTER SO MIGHTY THAT EVEN THE COMBINED FORCE OF ALL THE HUNTERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WOULDN'T INFLICT SO MUCH AS A SCRATCH.
WITH ONE BREATH, IT COULD BURN DOWN EVERYTHING ACROSS THE LAND.
THE BASTARD POSSESSES THAT MUCH POWER.

HOW IS HUNTER SUNG PLANNING TO FIGHT THOSE MONSTERS...?
HUNTER SUNG, THIS IS JINCHUL WOO.

THE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE GATHERED IN THE AUDITORIUM AS YOU REQUESTED. ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY?
FSHH
YES. I JUST GOT HERE.

I GUESS IT'S NOW POINTLESS TO ASK FOR YOUR LOCATION.
IF CIVILIANS LEARN THE TRUTH, IT WILL BE CHAOS.
A CHAOS THAT SOME COUNTRIES WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE.
I KNOW.
TODAY...
I UNDERSTAND. IF THAT'S REALLY WHAT YOU THINK IS BEST...

...THE TRUTH WILL BE REVEALED TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 13...

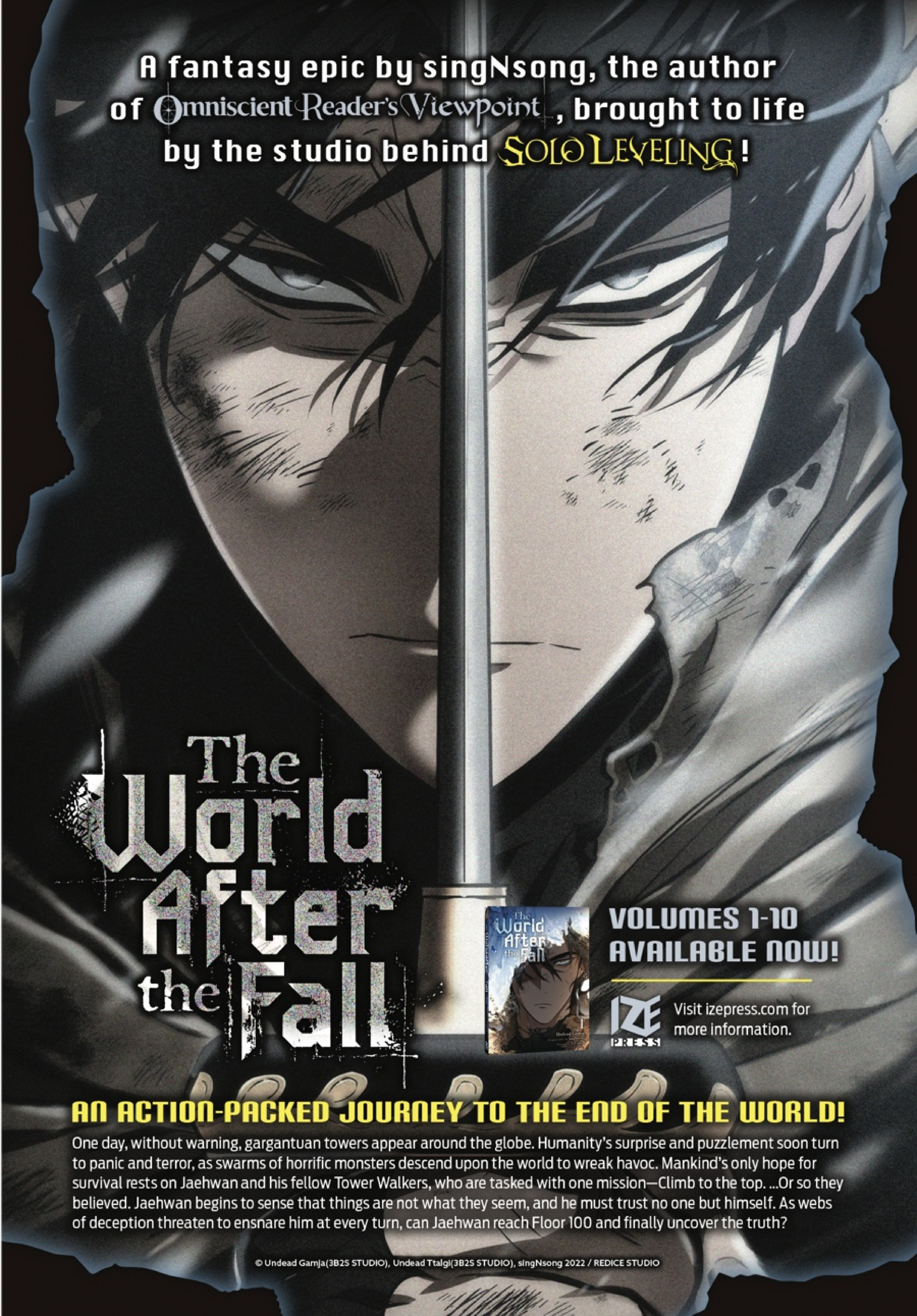
THE FINAL WAR FAST APPROACHES!
WHAT WILL BE THE DESTINY OF THE HUNTERS AND JINWOO SUNG AS THEY FACE THE MONARCHS AND THE DRAGON KING?!

STAY TUNED FOR THE EPIC CONCLUSION!!!

Solo Leveling

VOL. 13 COMING SOON!

THE MOST ANTICIPATED PROJECT FROM
THE STUDIO BEHIND THE GLOBAL HIT MANHWA SOLO LEVELING!
Omniscient Reader's Viewpoint
VOLUMES 1-6
AVAILABLE NOW IN
PRINT AND DIGITALLY!
VISIT IZEPRESS.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION.
IZE PRESS
THE MIND-BENDING FANTASY HIT BY
SINGNSONG, BROUGHT TO LIFE IN FULL COLOR!
Dokja Kim's sole joy in life is an online novel so obscure that he's its only reader. One day the story comes to an end... and so does the world. Horrific monsters and sadistic scenarios straight out of the novel have become a reality. Only Dokja is aware that this is merely the first chapter of what is to come. He can no longer afford to sit back as a reader—it's time for Dokja to step up and write his own destiny!
© Sleepy-C(3B2S STUDIO), UMI(REDICE STUDIO), singNsong 2020 / REDICE STUDIO


A fantasy epic by singNsong, the author of Omniscient Reader's Viewpoint, brought to life by the studio behind SOLO LEVELING!
The World After the Fall
VOLUMES 1-10 AVAILABLE NOW!
IZE PRESS
Visit izepress.com for more information.
AN ACTION-PACKED JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE WORLD!
One day, without warning, gargantuan towers appear around the globe. Humanity's surprise and puzzlement soon turn to panic and terror, as swarms of horrific monsters descend upon the world to wreak havoc. Mankind's only hope for survival rests on Jaehwan and his fellow Tower Walkers, who are tasked with one mission—Climb to the top. ...Or so they believed. Jaehwan begins to sense that things are not what they seem, and he must trust no one but himself. As webs of deception threaten to ensnare him at every turn, can Jaehwan reach Floor 100 and finally uncover the truth?
© Undead Gamja(3B2S STUDIO), Undead Ttalgi(3B2S STUDIO), singNsong 2022 / REDICE STUDIO

SOLO LEVELING
12

DUBU
(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Story by
CHUGONG
Adapted by
h-goon

Translation: Hye Young Im ◆ Rewrite: J. Torres ◆ Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

SOLO LEVELING Volume 12
© DUBU(REDICE STUDIO), Chugong, h-goon 2018 / D&C Media
All rights reserved.
First published in Korea in 2018 by D&C Media Co., Ltd.

English translation © 2025 by Ize Press

Ize Press, LLC supports the right to free expression and the value of copyright. The purpose of copyright is to encourage writers and artists to produce the creative works that enrich our culture.

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book without permission is a theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like permission to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), please contact the publisher. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Ize Press
150 West 30th Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10001

Visit us at izepress.com
facebook.com/izepress
twitter.com/izepress
instagram.com/izepress

First Ize Press Edition: May 2025
Edited by Abigail Blackman & Ize Press Editorial: Won Young Seo, JuYoun Lee
Designed by Ize Press Design: Wendy Chan

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2020950228

ISBNs: 979-8-4009-0257-4 (paperback)
979-8-4009-0258-1 (ebook)

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

TPA

Printed in South Korea